

September 17, 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, Elmer Douglas, Peter Gilliland, Percival Heath, Carolyn Jamieson, Larry MacKenzie, Betty Ann MacKinnon, Kevin Marriott, Dan McMillan, Steve Miller, John Phair

Directors Regrets: Diane Brewer, Joe Faas, Jon McEachran, Tom McGregor, Lonny Napper

Also Present for all or part of Meeting:

- Ralph Coe, General Manager
- Marlene Dorrestyn, Administrative Executive Assistant
- Brian McDougall, Director of Watershed Services
- Rick Battson, Director of Communication
- Patty Hayman, Director of Planning & Research
- Jeff Lawrence, Environmental Planner/Regs Officer
- Chris Durand, GIS Specialist
- Kevan Baker, Director of Conservation Areas
- Bill Dakin, Director of Financial Services

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

BD-09-089

Bilton - Jamieson

“That the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting, held June 11, 2009, be approved as distributed.”

CARRIED

The General Manager's Report was presented:

- Mary Jo Arnold Conservation Scholarship: the outpouring of support from friends, associates and relatives of Mary Jo and the Arnold family has been heart warming and has embraced the scholarship legacy for Mary Jo. To date, donations exceed \$9000 from over 130 donors with additional funds committed. The scholarship is designed for a young woman entering post secondary education in the conservation field and will begin in 2010. Anyone from within the watershed is eligible. The scholarship amount will be \$500.00 per year is proposed to be funded long term from interest from the scholarship fund. Mary Jo was a vibrant young woman who we had the pleasure of having as a staff member this past summer.
- Department of Fisheries and Oceans: Fisheries review- Letter of August 28, 2009
 - Chantal Larochelle, District Manager, Southern Region and I met on June 25, to review changes within DFO in Ontario and throughout Canada.
 - as DFO undergoes an operational review and priority setting of their Ministry, it is expected to have a continued impact on support for the work of local review of fisheries issues. Richard Moore remains as the designated biologist from the London office to support our region.
 - we will continue to monitor the changing roles of DFO and CA's and advise with respect to the agreement the St. Clair and DFO have in place for the services. DFO wishes to delegate additional responsibility to the Authority for the program.

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- the St. Clair continues to be one of highest review agencies in the province for DFO and the member municipalities.
- DFO has offered \$1000 per year for updating maps. (annual allocation)
- RAP (Remedial Action Plan) Co-ordinator – St. Clair River: successful meetings with staff of Environment Canada and Ministry of Environment have resulted in the decision to prepare to hire a full time Co-ordinator for January 2010 to be housed in our office. Funding for the position will be shared between MOE and EC. We meet next on September 15, in our office to finalize the proposal.
- Campgrounds (Warwick, A. W. Campbell, Henderson): Labour Day weekend: the areas experienced a very busy and successful weekend. All 3 campgrounds were full. We did not experience any significant weekend incidents, however we have had some evictions and suspensions over the summer in an effort to ensure the campgrounds remain safe and enjoyable for all. Revenue/expenditure comparisons outlines the increased use of the areas for 2009 over 2008. This is excellent, based on our current economic climate. Infrastructure improvements in 2009 ie. hydro upgrades, roads, drainage, new dumping station, etc has proven to be very successful, in customer service and retaining campers.
- Provincial Operating Grants from the Ministry of Natural Resources: The 2009 provincial transfer payment from the Ministry of Natural Resources in the amount of \$310,003.00 arrived August 31, 2009. There has been no change or cost of living on transfer payments for this work since 1997. This remains an issue under discussion with the province to cover the responsibilities outlined by the province in the Provincial policy and procedures manual.
- 2010 Draft Budget: staff are preparing the draft budget for programs and projects for the year 2010. This will be presented to the Board in November, followed by circulation to municipalities for comments in December and recommend approval for the Annual General Meeting on February 18, 2010. We anticipate another financially successful year for 2009 with a balanced budget through additional funds received through successful grant applications, contracts, special projects and increased self generated revenue. Costs control is always undertaken; however there are annual cost increases beyond inflation across most categories. These will be detailed later. Funding partners ie MNR (received August 31) Environment Canada HSP (approved but not received), etc. have been slow in providing their funding commitments. We have been extremely successful in partnership agreements for 2009 which assisted in offsetting additional costs of operations.

Note: Some municipalities require budget information at an earlier date than November. We will be pleased to provide the proposed budget numbers at any time with the understanding to the municipality the proposed budget has not been reviewed by the Board of Directors.

- Ontario Trillium Foundation: as a sponsor for Kent Stewardship Network application the Foundation received \$30,000 for a one year program to implement the Community Trees Initiative, a forestry program developed to broaden secondary school students learning to include an appreciation of trees in the environment – for Chatham Kent
- Communities in Bloom: Authority staff participated in profiling municipal/authority partnerships and facilities which were highlighted on several of the Communities in Bloom Judging during the summer months in Dresden and Sarnia
- Latornell Conservation Symposium. Alliston, November 18th-20th, Theme: The Currency of Ecology: Expected attendance of approximately 1000. This is attended by Conservation Authority Directors, staff from CA's and most Ministries, Stewardship Councils, industry professionals, consultants, students. Co-sponsored by Conservation Ontario and University of Guelph. For

symposium details or interest in attending, please ask me for information or go to www.latornell.ca

Meetings/events:

- Sunday, September 20th, Sunday 2:00 pm McKenzie and Blundy Memorial Forest Dedication Ceremony - Wawanosh Wetlands C.A.
- Sunday September 27th, Sunday 2:00 pm Foundation Memorial Forest Dedication, Lorne C. Henderson C.A.
- October 5, Conservation Ontario - Toronto,
- October 15, Foundation quarterly meeting - Strathroy - Admin office
- October 18, Management Meeting, Source Water Protection - staffing, funding, etc.

Staff:

- Bill Trenouth: a note from Bill, who returned to begin a Masters in Engineering Science at Guelph was reviewed. It is rewarding for the Authority to receive these notes and that a positive impact for those that work with the St. Clair. Bill received a Tony Stranak Scholarship award in 2004 and since graduation Bill worked with the ABCA and Ontario Parks.
- Joel Fraleigh, Water Resources Engineer, (Source Water Protection) accepted a position as with a consulting firm from Toronto and we are currently interviewing for a replacement position.
- Deb Kirk: Administrative Assistant (Source Water Protection) - this position is based in our office and Deb is on maternity leave with their newly adopted son Caleb. A contract replacement will be hired for approx 8 month maternity leave and interviews are underway.

Recent announcements of General Managers Retirements/appointments:

Ken Schmidt will be retiring January 2010 from the Essex Region Conservation Authority (Windsor)
 Al Bonnis retired Sept 1, 2009 from the Nickel District Region Conservation Authority (Sudbury)
 Jim Manicom, will retire in October from the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority (Owen Sound)
 Rob Messervy, has accepted the position as CAO of Kawartha Conservation after a long career with the Ministry of Natural Resources (District Manager, Manager of Conservation Authorities Section) and previous experience with Senior management positions in eastern Ontario Conservation Authorities.

Condolences: our sincere condolences to Bill Bilton and his family on the passing of his mother, Luella Bilton on July 15, 2009.

BD-09-090

Marriott - Bruininkk

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

CARRIED

A Conservation Area Update was reviewed:

- Henderson Conservation Area:
 - 19 existing unserviced campsites have been serviced with hydro, water, picnic tables and fire rings (campsites have been rented out regularly this season) water service was extended to the Lakeview picnic shelter and group camp area
 - 2 new portable washrooms have been purchased
 - A parking lot was developed to accommodate off season parking
 - 4 new horse shoe pits installed with spectator seating
 - a number of pool tiles were required to be replaced prior to pool opening

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- pool pump timer was installed (energy saving initiative)
- carpet was replaced on 4 of the mini golf holes
- Frisbee golf course was relocated and posts repainted
- the conservation area dedication plaque was reinstalled outside the building adjacent the education centre
- new lights have been installed in the workshop
- two new patio tables and umbrellas have been purchased for the pool deck
- campground roadways have been surfaced with many loads of gravel
- A.W. Campbell Conservation Area:
 - a 32 x 32 ft workshop has been constructed as a project of the St. Clair Region Conservation Foundation
 - main washroom and pool washroom building have been upgraded with aluminium fascia and eave troughs
 - 2 new portable washrooms have been purchased
 - Mini putt golf course has been refurbished with new carpet and 4 x 4 side railings
 - motion sensor lighting has been installed in the main washroom building (energy saving initiative)
 - pool pump timer has been installed
 - trails have been widened, hazard trees removed, and boardwalks reconstructed
 - 4 – 30 amp hydro receptacles have been added to accommodate larger trailers
 - gatehouse has been refurbished with interior paint, new tile floors and wainscoting
 - new back stops and score boards have been installed
 - 3 new park benches have been installed throughout the conservation area
 - approximately 30 large stock white pine trees have been planted
- Warwick Conservation Area:
 - 4 new security lights have been installed on the main and pool washroom buildings
 - a new trailer dump station & septic system has been constructed
 - sinks and counter tops have been upgraded in the pool washroom building
 - 2 new portable washrooms have been purchased
 - roadways to be surfaced with gravel
 - motion sensor lighting has been installed in the pool washroom building (energy saving initiative)
 - new tile floor and washroom stalls have been installed in the women's washroom
 - motion sensor lighting has been installed in the pool washroom building (energy saving initiative)
 - two new horseshoe pits and score boards have been installed in the woodlot campground
 - two new patio tables and umbrellas have been installed at the pool
 - installed counter tops and cupboards in the visitor centre
 - Friends of Warwick purchased a 50 inch plasma TV and refrigerator for the visitor centre
- Highland Glen Conservation Area:
 - harbour and boat ramp area has been dredged to provide a safe harbour and access to Lake Huron
- Wawanosh Wetlands Conservation Area:
 - trails within the conservation area have been regularly maintained and widened where needed
 - trees in the memorial forest have been pruned

- Strathroy Conservation Area:
 - in partnership with the municipality, staff have initiated the development of the Strathroy water trail
 - Trails Open trail hike and bagel breakfast occur on Saturday, June 6th at 9 am with approximately 17 participants
- Bridgeview Conservation Area:
 - a \$ 3,500 donation was received from TD Friends of the Environment to undertake tree and shrub planting around the reservoir, approximately 140 trees and shrubs have been planted this spring.
 - the municipality has removed a number of dead and dangerous ash tree from within the conservation area
- 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 visitor guides, approximately 5000 full colour guides will be produced advertising our conservation areas, we estimate that through the sale of advertising the guide will be produced at no cost to the authority
 - Conservation Ontario Conservation Areas Guide - a new guide was produced highlighting selected conservation areas throughout the province
- Seasonal Camping Report:
 - Our 3 regional campgrounds have been busy this year, gross revenues are up 4 % to over \$700,000.00 and net revenues are up \$ 4.6 %.
 - 380 full and half seasonal campers are currently registered at our 3 campgrounds (up from 374 in 2008 and 358 in June of this year).

BD-09-091**Miller - Bruinink**

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the Conservation Areas Update, dated September 1, 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 3% and overall campgrounds are running a 5% surplus.

BD-09-092**Bruinink - Douglas**

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the Conservation Area Campground revenue and expenditure report to July 31, 2009.”

CARRIED

A Staff Report on the Warwick Dump Station was discussed:

- existing dump station and septic system was installed in the main campground in 1981
- in 1981 there was only 45 campsites in the main campground with few of these campsites occupied by seasonal or overnight campers
- currently our main campground has 175 campsites, 125 sites occupied by seasonal campers and 50 available to overnight campers, which are full to near full most weekends in the summer
- the increase use has created problems with our existing septic system and has resulted in the system to fail
- BKL Engineering of Sarnia was retained and prepared drawings, tender documents and cost estimates for this project
- the project was awarded to Ernie Herrington of Arkona for a contract price of \$ 50,200.00
- the work was completed on August 26, 2009

BD-09-093

Bruziewicz - MacKenzie

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the Warwick Dump Station & Septic System report dated August 31, 2009.”

CARRIED

A staff report on the Children’s and Camper Activities in the campgrounds was presented:

- this camping season has been very busy at all three of our campground conservation areas. Each campground organizes and delivers both children and camper activities throughout the year. We are very fortunate to have a dedicated group of volunteer campers who assist our staff in running these activities. The following is a list of camper activities in 2009:
 - Warwick:
 - bingos, golf cart rally, Canada Day fireworks, 2 fishing derbies
 - Christmas in July, Halloween in the Park which featured a Haunted House
 - rubber duck race in the pool with park mascot Willy the Duck
 - Friday night features movie night at the visitor centre
 - Conservation area hosted the steam thrashers parade with lunch at the visitor centre
 - A.W. Campbell:
 - bingos, slip and slide tarp ride, tie dye T-shirt creation, fishing derby
 - scavenger hunts, family movie nights, Christmas in July, Halloween, yard sale day
 - teen dance was held at the pavilion and was a big success
 - regular pot luck dinners, bagel breakfasts, Canada Day Fireworks
 - L.C. Henderson:
 - Canada Day fireworks, nature hikes, Easter in the Park, First Annual Craft Sale
 - Tie Dye T-Shirt creation, Henderson Olympics, Park Yard Sale
 - Survivor Kids Food Drive, bingos, Halloween in August
 - Children’s program included Rock n’ minerals, Endangered and Invasive Species Safari, Native Learning with Nina
 - A live country and western band played in the park on Canada Day and Labour Day weekends

BD-09-094**Burrell - Gilliland****“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated September 1, 2009 on Children’s and Camper Activities in our campgrounds in 2009.”****CARRIED**

A staff report on McKeough Property #101 was discussed.

- Property 101 was one of the McKeough Upstream Lands purchased in 1980 to allow operation of the McKeough dam and floodway
- the house on the property had been rented since 1980 and was vacated in 2007
- staff subsequently found that the tenants had grown marijuana inside the house, resulting in damage to the wiring and drywall
- the foundation of the house is largely fieldstones with the mortar failing between the stones
- with annual rent in the order of \$5500 gross (less taxes, insurance, and annual maintenance costs) for a small, old rural house, it is not cost effective to replace the wiring and drywall and repair or rebuild the foundation
- this is a large farm property with the home located several hundred metres back from the roadway and the opportunity for a severance is not recommended.
- OPP have asked if this residence could be used as a training ground prior to removal.

BD-09-095**Miller - McMillan****“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated September 3, 2009 on McKeough Property #101 and that staff proceed to tender this house and its associated services for demolition.”****CARRIED**

A staff report on McKeough Property # 47 was considered.

- Property 47 was one of the McKeough Upstream Lands purchased in 1985 to allow operation of the McKeough Dam and Floodway
- the house has been rented since time of purchase
- the current tenants complained of health problems related to mould in the drywall
- a House Inspector’s Report noted the mould problem is probably influenced by:
 - inadequate wall and ceiling surface cleaning
 - bathroom fan currently venting into the attic
 - roof leaks near the chimneys
 - foundation leaks
- House Inspector recommended extensive repairs
- we have receive cost estimates of \$20,000 to \$25,000 to repair the ventilation, replace the interior drywall and replace the roof, eavestrough and downspouts
- in addition this residential property in Wilkesport is to connect to the new municipal sewer line before June 2010, at an estimated cost of \$2,000
- annual rental income is currently \$6816 (less taxes, insurance and maintenance costs)
- a local Real Estate agent estimated the selling price of the neighbouring house at 3256 Douglas Street to be \$137,000
- 3256 Douglas Street has an assessed value of \$129,750 while the subject property has a lower assessed value of \$126,500

- we estimate the selling price of the subject property should therefore be in the order of \$134,000
- at the time of purchase, this property included McKeough flood easement lands
- Lambton County property boundaries now indicate those lands are an independent parcel, and that the house and associated residential lot are above the McKeough flood easement
- the house is wholly within the residential zoning (R1-3)

BD-09-096**MacKinnon - Bilton**

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated September 3, 2009 on McKeough Property #47 and that staff proceed to list this property with a Real Estate Agent for sale with the proceeds to be used to further the objects of the Conservation Authority under Section 21 of the Conservation Authorities Act.”

CARRIED

A staff report on McKeough Property # 49 was reviewed.

- this 1500 square foot residence has been vacant since September 2008
- the previous tenant left after problems related to his failure to pay rent
- staff found the tenant had damaged several of the interior walls, broken light fixtures and grown marijuana inside the house
- tenants are expected to pay for their own utilities and as this house is heated with electric baseboard heating it has been difficult to find reliable tenants for this property
- the hydro service was apparently severed last fall during construction of the municipal sewer line
- a full hydro inspection and certification will be needed before Ontario Hydro will approve re-connection to the grid
- vandals recently broke into the house through the back wall of the garage, damaged walls in all the rooms and broke light fixtures, cupboards, interior doors and the exterior siding (reported to the OPP)
- the majority of the property is subject to flooding as it is within the McKeough Flood Easement
- costs to return this property to a rentable condition are estimated at \$15,000 to \$20,000 and challenges will remain with respect to tenants’ covering the cost of electric heating
- renovations and any exterior work are within an area Regulated by the Authority
- there is evidence of slope instability as the concrete block footing is separating in several places, in alignment with the hillside, and evergreen trees on the hillside are tipped toward the river
- Natural Hazard and SCRCA’s “Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses. Ont. Reg. 171/06”
 - this property is subject to the SCRCA’s Regulation regarding Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses. It is also a non-conforming use within the zone EP-Hazard in St. Clair Township’s Zoning Bylaw. Although the Authority is not required to issue permits for itself (as per Ont. Reg. 171/06), the Authority must abide by its policies and guidelines imposed on other ratepayers within the watershed. Its decisions regarding its own properties should be consistent with its recommendations elsewhere.
 - as indicated in the attached map the dwelling is situated within the high hazard or 3:1 slope, i.e. a 3:1 slope from the river intersects the house. There is no available building envelope which is more than 15 metres from the top of the 3:1 slope. In fact, a building envelope cannot even be situated in this lot landward of the 3:1 slope.

- if the house is demolished it is not recommended to rebuild a dwelling on the same foundation without costly geotechnical engineering and protection for the toe of the slope.
- due to the fact that extensive renovations (more than \$40,000) are needed to make the dwelling rentable and the house is located on an unstable slope, the benefit/cost ratio of repairing the existing house is not in the Authority's favour.

BD-09-097**Marriott - Burrell**

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated September 3, 2009 on McKeough Property #49 and that staff proceed to tender this house and its associated services for demolition.”

CARRIED

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

- Joel Fraleigh, Water Resources Engineer In Training , has taken a position with MMM Group in Thornhill – due to the technical focus of the on-going duties, the position has been revised to a Water Resources Engineering Technician – the position has been posted on the Authority's and other related websites and applications are due Sept 7th
- Drinking Water Source Protection
 - Tier II water budget data collection for surface and groundwater in stressed watersheds within the region
 - model selection assessment and review
 - Intake Protection Zone 2 & 3 delineation
 - location sourcing and installation of groundwater well loggers in stressed watersheds in the UTRCA part of the region
 - coordination and reporting of Source Water policy development workshops
 - site visits to determine streamflow using transect methods
- Flood Forecast & Warning
 - Streamgauge maintenance and repair as well as review of summer experience program staff maintenance report
 - Implementation and performance analysis of daily gauge reporting tolls for flood and low water response responsibilities
 - 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
 - tree planting completed in June
 - spring herbicide for 180,000 previously planted and newly planted seedlings
 - 50 Million Tree Program – planting audits completed - 3 of 6 sites reviewed - total grant approved \$38,450
 - Waste Management – 1200 m of screening berms are constructed ready for the Authority's installation of 900 large stock trees
 - Dow Landfill – met with staff and consultant regarding naturalization and authority involvement as well as identifying current vegetation on the site
 - 25 acres of disking @ 5 plantation sites completed

- Shields to control drift during spraying constructed for both herbicide application units
- Drain Maintenance Program
 - Municipal Drainage Superintendents have requested that the Authority undertake brush and phragmites control on over 75 km of drains, a significant increase from the last couple of years
 - additional equipment and manpower have been added to this project for the summer and fall to try to meet demand and we will accomplish as much of the requested work as possible
 - over 15 km has been completed to date
 - Phragmites control at Waste Management Canada, DOW and Perch Creek
- Conservation Services Workshop - cold storage interior and external doors painted
- Woodlot Management
 - partnered with the Lambton Woodlot Owners Association for Tree Grower's Information Day & Bus Tour approx. 60 attendees
 - inventory at the Evoy property looking for forest health issues, especially gypsy moth damage, Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is present in the woodlot
 - attended a management plan technical meeting hosted by the ABCA for the Port Frank's area
- McKeough Dam & Upstream Lands
 - Annual mowing of Dam, Channel and upstream properties as well as managed Lambton County properties completed
 - Canadian Forestry Service collecting EAB and undertaking pheromone experiments at dam
 - University of Western Ontario obtained soils cores for use in labs from the channel bottom
 - New signs installed at outlet and drop structure
 - maintenance of the berms & channel including the erosion control structures and fences
 - Trails at McKeough to be included in second edition of a guide book to "Hiking In Ontario" which should be available next year
- 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
- Species At Risk - agreements revision and endorsement
- Healthy Watersheds / Best Management Practices
 - reporting for 2008-09 projects and preparation of program for audit
 - revisions to proposed budget for approval of 2009-2010 grant
- Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network
 - data acquisition
 - repair and maintenance
- Other
 - installation of new sign at Huff Woodlot
 - review of requirements for expanded Provincial Dam inventory and provision of available information

BD-09-098

Douglas - Burrell

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the Activity Summary dated September 3, 2009, from the Watershed Services Department for June, July and August 2009.”

CARRIED

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

- Watershed Precipitation Levels: while it felt like the rain was ever present throughout the summer, averages for the period were consistent with normal distribution with the exception of Sarnia having 18.5% above average for the summer months. August figures for Sarnia were also boosted by significant rainfall on Aug 8th and 10th of 33mm (1.3 inches) and 25mm (0.98 inches) respectively. A consistent trend of intense storm events with heavy downpours is noted in the data from station comparisons across the watershed
- Streamflows: watershed flows have moderated throughout the summer with all rivers at 60% to 65% capacity. High rainfall in June resulted in higher flows in both river systems. Overall comparison of 2009 with 2008 numbers shows a similar pattern of flow through the summer months. Generally there were lower flows in 2009 than 2008 from late July and into August at both locations. With the occurrence of storm events additional rainfall runoff was readily accommodated within the watershed with a lower risk of overbank flooding. There were no advisories under the Ontario Low Water Response program. As weather systems are anticipated stabilize into September, flows are expected to remain consistent with annual flow figures at all points in the watershed.
- Projects and Activities:
 - we continue to develop new tools within the department to such as the Gauge Data Analysis Tool (GDAT) which allows faster analysis of streamgauge data and improved communication both internally and to external partners during both flood and low water events. Addition new software has also been created to improve gauge polling throughout our network on a scheduled time sequence basis.
 - a new Davis weather station was installed at the McKeough Dam providing addition data including a full range of environmental conditions. This compliments our other Davis units in Strathroy and the Dow Wetlands
 - work continues in the department assisting the collection of watershed data as required by the Source Water Protection mandate.
 - Department staff completed a seminar on streamflow monitoring techniques offered by the TRCA in June. The course included extensive training on stream gauge technology, field methods and practical use of instrumentation. This training has already been utilized in the Source Water Protection data collection process.
 - we continue to migrate our current Basin Runoff Forecasting Unit (BRFU) hydrology data management system to a new Windows based platform using Microsoft .NET technology. In addition we are transferring full control and ownership of the software over to a user group consisting of St. Clair and three other Conservation Authorities in the region
- Flood Threat: Low risk of flood over the next month as the watershed continues to experience seasonal 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-09-099**MacKinnon - Miller****“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated September 3, 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
 - this funding will support best management practices projects including: wetland construction or enhancement projects, streambank stabilization and naturalization projects, riparian buffer plantings along watercourses
 - new this year is the additional requirement for review and approval of each best management practices project by Department of Fisheries & Oceans liaisons which may make the Project Review Committee somewhat redundant and therefore this aspect of the program administration is under review
 - other projects approved include: annual newsletters being distributed across the watershed this month, public service announcements, educational programming in the classroom and on-site, Landowner contact and followup programs as well as overall project administration
 - staff are collecting applications from landowners and delivering educational programs currently
 - arrangements are being made for the broadcast of the public service announcements, however changes at the A-Channel in London may reduce the number of showings
 - project approved in 2009 for Habitat Stewardship Program grant was also supported by a grant from 50 Million Tree Program

BD-09-100**Burrell - McMillan****“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated September 3, 2009, on the Healthy Watersheds programs across the watershed.”****CARRIED**

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

- the following 8 projects were approved for 2009-2010 - some of the projects may be undertaken in 2009 where budgets permit and the remainder will be placed in the 2010 budget and completed in early 2010
 - ARDA Dykes - Repair - Hazard Tree Removal Wren Line: Total \$19,000 - Grant Approved \$9,500 - Special Levy \$9,500 Chatham-Kent
 - Coldstream CA Dam - Sluiceway Control Structure Safety Railing: total \$8,800 - Grant Approved \$4,400 - Special Levy \$4,400 SCRCA
 - McKeough Dam - Highway 40 Drain Outfall Erosion Repair: total \$32,000 - Grant Approved \$16,000 - Special Levy \$16,000 Chatham-Kent/St. Clair Twp

- McKeough Dam - Diversion Berm Erosion Repair: total \$31,000 - Grant Approved \$15,500 - Special Levy \$15,500 Chatham-Kent/St. Clair Twp
- Centennial Park Erosion Control Project - Safety Railing, Splash Pad & Drainage Improvements: total \$31,000 - Grant Approved \$15,500 - Special Levy \$15,500 Sarnia
- Guthrie Park Erosion Control Project - Repair - Shore Protection Revitalization Phase II: total \$425,000 - Grant Approved \$212,500 - Special Levy \$212,500 St. Clair Twp
- Cathcart Park Erosion Control Project - Erosion Protection Revitalization Study: total \$64,000 - Grant Approved \$32,000 - Special Levy \$32,000 St. Clair Twp
- All Dams - Dam Safety Review: total \$23,000 - Grant Request \$11,500 – several special benefitting
- 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
- 2006 - 2007 WECI Projects
 - Sarnia Seaway Centre ECP - Flank Protection Phase I - Complete
- 2007 - 2008 WECI Projects
 - Guthrie Park - Shore Protection Revitalization Phase I - Complete
 - McKeough Dam - Watercourse Obstruction Removal - weather conditions were not satisfactory to undertake works this winter - minors works this fall - will target winter work and hope that conditions permit work
 - Sarnia Seaway Centre ECP - Flank Protection Phase II - complete
- 2008 - 2009 WECI Projects -
 - ARDA Dyke - Erosion Repairs & Vegetation Removal - to be completed in fall as weather conditions did not permit works to be completed in spring
 - McKeough Dam - Drop Structure Crack Repair Phase II - to be completed in fall when conditions permit

BD-09-101**Phair - Bruinink**

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated September 3, 2009, on the Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure Projects across the watershed including funding approvals for 2009-2010 projects.”

CARRIED

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

- at the request of the Great Lakes Sustainability Fund, live cutting and clover were planted in the planting pods in late July in an effort to control erosion of the planting pod soils
- St. Clair Township has confirmed their financial support for Phase II of construction, matching the \$212,500 in funding received from the Ministry of Natural Resources through Water & Erosion Control Infrastructure funding
- additional funding support has been obtained from Industry Canada through the Community Adjustment Fund in the order of \$250,000
- these funds in addition to confirmed funding for the St. Clair River Shoreline Restoration Project through the Great Lakes Sustainability Fund will provide a construction budget of approximately \$635,000 with approximately \$80,000 of the budget being allocated to engineering

- St. Clair Township Council is reviewing the option to extend the existing contract in order to take advantage of good unit prices as well as a contractor who now has project experience as well as accepted supply lines
- it is recommended that the Board of Directors concur with the decision of St. Clair Township Council regarding how to proceed with the next phase of the project and if required that the Chairman and General Manager be authorized to sign any required project documentation

BD-09-102

Bruiziewicz - Jamieson

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated September 3, 2009, regarding the Guthrie Park Shore Protection Revitalization Project including the additional funding support of \$250,000 from Industry Canada and further acknowledges the public tender process, the previous award to the low tender from Coores Construction Ltd and further agrees to extend the existing contract with Coores Construction Ltd to include the construction of 235 metres of shore protection, described as Phase II of the project, for \$630,086.15.”

CARRIED

A Staff Report on the Mission Park Shore Protection Revitalization Project was presented.

- following completion of Phase I of construction, shifting of the fill material on the south side of the office building on the waterfront had permitted erosion and created a safety concern
- Sev – Con Limited was contracted to create a graduated filter using concrete slabs and recycle steel grates to establish a stable but porous support for the area to be topped with crushed stone as similar to the remainder of the parkette at the foot of Ferry Dock Hill
- in order to restrict vehicular access to the south viewing platform, four of the small armourestones which surrounded the parkette were placed across the front face of the south viewing platform to limit access to pedestrian, wheelchair to two wheel vehicles
- Phase II of shore protection revitalization has been delayed until 2010 in order for the creation and acceptance of a master plan for the park area
- although the shore protection design will not change, a better understanding of the design of the parkland behind the erosion protection will be important to ensure that all drainage, slope and any necessary outfalls are incorporated into design updates prior to tendering the next phase
- Authority staff have been asked to participate in the master plan design to ensure that the existing waterfront design is taken into consideration

BD-09-103

Bruziewicz - McMillan

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated September 3, 2009 on the Mission Park Shore Protection Revitalization Project.”

CARRIED

A staff report on the Lambton County Community Health Services' West Nile Virus response program was presented.

- Lambton County Community Health Services continues to seek the Authority's assistance in undertaking treatment of catch basins with larvicide to control the threat of West Nile Virus
- unfortunately, funding cuts by the Province caused the West Nile Virus program to be cut back in several areas this year including the amount of funding available for catch basin treatments

- the Authority, with 2 years remaining on the existing contract, worked with Community Health Services to revise the treatments regime to 2 treatments with larvicide pellets in order to maintain a viable program and reduce the threat of west Nile virus
- the existing contract has been amended for 2009
- Summer staff contracts were shortened by 2 weeks to reflect the reduction of the catch basin treatments and ended on August 14th
- just under 30,000 catch basins were treated in July and August
- a post treatment dip survey will be completed next week
- final cost for the work will be close to the proposed \$80,900

BD-09-104

Bilton - Miller

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated September 3, 2009 regarding the Lambton County Larvicide Program.”

CARRIED

A staff report on Conservation Services Programs was discussed.

- staff are negotiating with Lambton College to develop an internship program for arborist
- the program would provide work experience for the arborist as well as providing staff for Authority projects
- the current draft of the plan would provide 8 weeks experience to as many as 6 candidates this fall
- the interns would be focused on four projects this fall, large stock planting at Waste Management, Plantation Management at the McKeough Dam, trail maintenance at Lambton County Heritage Forest and an inventory of street trees in the community of Strathroy
- Waste Management
 - 1200 metres of screening berms have been constructed this year to date
 - as part of the landscape plan for the site, the Authority is being contracted to plant 900 large stock (4-6 foot tall) spruce trees on the berms
 - these are large trees and require heavy equipment as well as labourers to install the plant material
 - it is expected that this project will begin in late September
 - before and after photos of 2008 planting at right

BD-09-105

Marriott - Bruinink

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated September 3, 2009, on Conservation Services Programs and works planned for the fall of 2009.”

CARRIED

Regulations Activity Summaries dated June 30, July 31 and August 31, 2009 were considered.

BD-09-106

MacKenzie - MacKinnon

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges and concurs with the Regulations Activity Summary Reports on "Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses" (Ontario Regulation 171/06), dated June 30, July 31, and August 31, 2009.”

CARRIED

Planning Activity Summary Report for June, July and August 2008 was reviewed.

BD-09-107

Douglas - Jamieson

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

CARRIED

A staff report on the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority’s Shoreline program was discussed.

- Bluepoint area in Plympton Wyoming: guidelines are included for a severe erosion area in Bluepoint. The receipt of OLS surveys for several properties confirms the accuracy of the Authority’s mapping and a review of the 25 year erosion limit indicates that in the severe erosion area, sufficient building envelopes are not available. In addition, the Authority has undertaken two studies in Bluepoint which also confirm the Authority’s position regarding new development. They are:
 - Blue Point Recession Study, SCRCA 2004 – a GPS investigation of the top of bank, toe of bank and waterline position and comparison to 1935. Conclusion: Based on the revised recession rates and 2004 toe of bluff; the stable slope allowance and erosion hazard limit had not changed significantly enough to warrant re-mapping of the Authority’s hazard lines.
 - Blue Point Shore Protection Cost Benefit Analysis, Shoreplan Coastal Engineering and SCRCA 2003 – following the provincial methodology to potentially access provincial/federal funding the analysis indicated a ratio less than 1.0; indicating the economic viability of the shore protection was not favourable.
- due to the fact that the Authority’s Regulation is now in place and takes precedent, guidelines for staff are necessary. Municipal building staff are referring all shoreline development applications to the Authority prior to issuing building permits. It is important to note that the guidelines presented also conform to MNR’s Technical Guide for Great Lakes – St. Lawrence River Shorelines; Appendix A7.2 “*Existing Development within the Hazardous Lands*”, issued in 1993. From a legal perspective, this document will also be relied upon in supporting internal SCRCA guidelines.
- we are aware that the proposed SCRCA Bluepoint guidelines are currently not in conformity with the existing municipal Zoning By-law (currently under review). This information has been brought forward to County staff as well as municipal staff. Mapping and the draft guidelines were discussed at a face to face meeting with staff on September 10, 2009. The outcome of this meeting will be brought forward at the Full Board meeting on September 17, 2009.
- the draft shoreline guidelines were also reviewed at the Authority Regulations Committee on August 24, 2009 and comments and input provided. The principle of incorporating necessary policy for the severe erosion area in Bluepoint and the shoreline area in general was accepted and recommended to be brought forward to the Board for review and approval.

BD-09-108

Burrell - Jamieson

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the update, dated September 4, 2009, on the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority’s Shoreline program and approves the revised Shoreline Development guidelines as presented, including the policies for the severe erosion area in Bluepoint, as administered under Ontario Regulation 171/06.”

CARRIED

A staff report on 4178 Bluepoint Drive was reviewed.

- 4178 Bluepoint Drive has a subject building that has been condemned and is to be demolished.
- Authority staff have not issued any formal correspondence stating that a new dwelling cannot be placed on the building. In telephone inquiries, staff have verbally provided information on the position of the 25 year erosion line relative to the dwelling and lot depth. A new building will not have a 25 year life according to our recession information.
- the Authority's normal policy with regard to buildings destroyed by forces other than flooding or erosion (normally fire), is that permission could be granted to rebuild on a foundation of the same size and floodproofed or protected from erosion to the greatest degree possible. In this case, moving the building as far back on the lot as possible. However, under the Planning Act, if a building remains unoccupied for a certain length of time, the building and lot use reverts back to the underlying use which in this case is Hazard. This is our understanding. Information obtained from the County confirms the building has been unoccupied since early 2008. Due to the fact substantial redevelopment would be occurring within the 25 year erosion period, it is advised that the Authority's solicitor familiar with land use planning principles be contacted and an opinion sought on the following:
 - A. Confirming the building has remained unoccupied for a certain period of time, does the land use revert to Hazard zone, and if it does, can it be confirmed that the Authority cannot issue permission to build as it is zoned Hazard. In other words, the existing use is void, and the lot reverts to vacant as per similar vacant lots in the severe erosion area.
 - B. If the unoccupancy fact is not an issue, what is the Authority's liability in issuing permission to build albeit a small envelope inside the 1:25 year erosion limit and no erosion protection.

BD-09-109

McMillan - Bilton

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report, dated September 4, 2009, on 4178 Bluepoint Drive and associated correspondence from the owner’s solicitor dated August 25, 2009 and further that this report and correspondence be forwarded to the Authority’s land use/regulations solicitor (G. Inglis) for his opinion and response in the matter and further that staff notify Gowling et al. that this course of action has been taken.”

CARRIED

A staff report on implementing the “Generic Regulation” in Chatham-Kent was presented.

- Background: in May 2006, the above SCRCR Regulation was approved by the province and the Authority was obligated to enforce the Regulation. This “second generation” of regulations replace the previous *“Fill, Construction and Alteration to Waterways Regulations”*. Basically, the regulation states that any development taking place on regulated lands may require permission from the Authority to confirm that the control of flooding, erosion, dynamic beaches, pollution or the conservation of land are not affected. Works which include the straightening, changing, diverting or interfering in any way with the existing channel of a river, creek, stream, watercourse or changing or interfering in any way with a wetland are also regulated.
- Issue: Section 28(2) of the Conservation Authorities Act states as follows:
A regulation made under subsection (1) may delegate any of the authority’s powers or duties under the regulation to the authority’s executive committee or to any other person or body, subject to any limitations and requirements that may be set out in the regulation.
 - the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority’s Regulation, Ontario Regulation 171/06

Board of Directors Meeting, September 17, 2009

BD-09-110**Miller - Marriott**

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report, dated September 4, 2009, on implementing the “Generic Regulation” in Chatham Kent and the financial implications and further that the overall program be reviewed at the senior administrative level in terms of efficiencies, fees, etc. and that a final recommendation be brought forward for inclusion in the 2010 budget if necessary.”

CARRIED

A staff report regarding participation in the Ministry of Natural Resources SWOOP II digital photography project was discussed.

- Background:
 - in 2006, the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority (SCRCA) participated in the South Western Ontario Ortho Photography (SWOOP) project to obtain digital aerial photography covering the entire watershed. This project, lead by the County of Lambton, was a partnership that included 58 funding partners (public and private sectors) allowing consistent photo coverage for all of South Western Ontario. Through this partnership, the SCRCA was able to take advantage of significant cost savings. The air photos obtained by the SCRCA have become an invaluable tool that is used by all departments to accomplish numerous tasks, including the mapping of our Generic Regulation Limit.
 - over the past year, the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) has been organizing what is now called SWOOP II in an effort to gather partners again to acquire even higher resolution photography for this area of the Province with the intent to repeat this process every 5 years.
 - a Steering Committee, consisting of representatives from private and public sector organizations including Conservation Authorities has been set up to determine deliverables that meet the needs of all partners involved. As the lead, MNR is seeking funding partners and have committed to pay for 50% of the total project as well as administer all contracts and delivery.
- Products and Uses
 - aside from higher resolution photography, something new to this project is the potential acquisition of what is called a Digital Elevation Model (DEM). The current DEM that is utilized by the SCRCA was instrumental in the creation of the estimated flood line component of our Generic Regulation Limit. In recent applications of this estimated flood line, numerous errors and deficiencies in our existing DEM mainly due to our inherently “flat” watershed have been realized. The engineer who generated our estimated floodline reported elevation values as being off by as much as 3 metres in some areas. Although there is no doubt that the proposed DEM with SWOOP II would certainly be more accurate, and although there would be significant savings in acquiring a new DEM through this partnership, it is still fairly costly and it is unclear if there would be a significant difference in our estimated flood lines (ie. We may get more detail but it won’t make our watershed any less flat).
 - it should be noted that in obtaining the photography only, the deliverables will still include data that the SCRCA can utilize to generate a DEM in-house. However, it would require a significant investment and would require purchase of the same software and hardware systems used by consultants and also involve significant staff time and resources to put it into a useable format. There has been some work done by other CA’s in recent months and some of our neighboring CA’s are also considering this as well so there may be an

- opportunity to explore this option in the future.
- Benefits and Disadvantages to Partnering in SWOOP II
 - Benefits (if we partner)
 - significant cost savings through purchase of a common product by many agencies
 - access to current high resolution imagery (even higher than SWOOP I)
 - common base – in working with our Member Municipalities and the Province, when working on projects, we all are looking at the same image (same vintage)
 - access to RAW data for the creation of a new DEM if funds permit in the future
 - if there’s a chance we can find grant to help cover this cost, it will reduce the cost to other partners (including Upper Tiers)
 - Disadvantages (if we don’t partner)
 - to complete this project on our own would cost 6 times more than if we partner just for the photography alone
 - strict licensing will prevent us from obtaining the photography from any participating agencies and would force us to go to the vendor and pay significantly higher fees for the imagery if it turns out that we need it for a project
 - having older photography than the agencies we work with (or on behalf of) prevents us from providing efficient and accurate services/comments on planning and regulatory issues (ie. There are several new subdivisions that have been constructed since the last photography project in 2006)
 - we would not have access to the RAW data for the creation of a DEM
- Project Costs: as mentioned, there are significant savings through participation in this project and since strict licensing is being proposed this time around, the only way for the SCRCA to acquire any of the project deliverables is to become a partner. Based on the funding formula provided by MNR, the following table lists the approximate costs of participating in SWOOP II for the photography only. To illustrate the cost savings, the funds required for completing such a project on our own are also shown.

Product	Without SWOOP II Partnership	With SWOOP II Partnership
Aerial Photography	\$125,000.00	\$21,945.00
Aerial Photography & Digital Elevation Model	\$1,000,000.00+	\$131,670.00

- additional costs to this project would include the necessary storage space for these digital deliverables.
- Timelines and Next Steps
 - at this time, and in order to determine the number of potential partnerships and shared costs, the MNR is requesting that all potential partners sign a Letter of Intent. This letter is not a legal obligation at this time; it merely outlines that an organization will “genuinely pursue funding and a firm commitment for this project”

BD-09-111
Burrell - McMillan

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges and concurs with the report dated August 28th, 2009 regarding the SCRCA’s participation in the Ministry of Natural Resources SWOOP II digital

photography project in 2010 and authorizes signing of the associated Letter of Intent.”

CARRIED

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

Background: the effective management of contaminated sediment is a required component to the eventual delisting of the St. Clair River AOC.

- Next phase:
 - Environment Canada will be funding \$75,000.00 toward the next phase of the project which includes the following:
 - conduct sediment stability studies for the St. Clair River Area of Interest to support the selection of a preferred sediment management program.
 - evaluate sediment management options for the St. Clair River Area of Interest high priority areas as confirmed by ENVIRON. (previous biomagnifications study) The evaluation will include detailed feasibility studies and cost estimates to assess potential sediment management options. The report will clearly describe the methods utilized for the selection and ranking of potential sediment management options.
 - the latter task will involve a “Request for Proposals” from qualified firms and an evaluation process by the Sediment Committee will follow. Members of the Sediment Committee are attached. The Committee was established several years ago. The Ministry of the Environment is to contribute \$100,000 to this phase.
- Schedule
 - Sediment stability studies – Early Fall 2009
 - Sediment Evaluation

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.
- Remediation works 2011-2012
 - the SCRCA will receive 10% fee for project administration and as the Authority is project manager, final approvals for consultant award will be the Authority’s General Manager or his designate.

BD-09-112

Douglas - Burrell

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated September 4, 2009 on the St. Clair River Sediment Project – Evaluation of Sediment Management Options and attached Contribution Agreement outlining the Authority’s responsibilities and further approves the Authority acting as Project Manager and that the General Manager or his designate award works to the successful consultant based on the Sediment Committee’s recommendation.”

CARRIED

The Regulations Committee report dated August 24, 2009 was reviewed.

BD-09-113

Marriott - Miller

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges and concurs with the Regulations Committee Meeting Report "Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses" (Ontario Regulation 171/06), dated August 24, 2009.”

CARRIED

Authority revenue and expenditures to July, 2009, were reviewed.

BD-09-114

Jamieson - MacKinnon

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the revenue and expenditure report to July 31, 2009, as it relates to the budget.”

CARRIED

May to August 2009 disbursements totaling \$1,099,021.39 were considered.

BD-09-1115

MacKinnon - Bruinink

“That the Board of Directors approves the May to August 2009 disbursements as presented in the amount of \$1,099,021.39.”

CARRIED

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

BD-09-116

MacKenzie - Burrell

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

CARRIED

A renewal memorandum of group benefits was explained.

- Buffett Taylor & Associates presented the results of the 2009 Sun Life and American Home renewals to the Benefits Committee for Conservation Ontario meeting held on July 21, 2009. The Committee passed a motion to accept the terms of the negotiated renewal for both carriers.
- the overall renewal impact varies by benefit line and by individual CA, based on plan design mix and volumes of coverage, with most groups on average seeing an overall increase of around +3%. NB (2008 increase was +10%)
- the renewal rates will be reflected on the September 2009 premium billing statements. I the details relating our plan increases effective September 2009 are included .
- Overall Renewal Results:
 - Sun Life
 - Basic Life No change (under rate guarantee until Sept. 1, 2010)
 - Optional Life No change (under rate guarantee until Sept. 1, 2010)
 - Dependent Life No change (under rate guarantee until Sept. 1, 2010)
 - Long Term Disability +3.1 %

Short Term Disability No Change (only 3 CA's participate in insured STD plan we are one of them)

Health Care +5.0% increase

Dental Care No Change

- AIG Commercial Insurance
- Accidental Death & Dismemberment No change
- Our Authority's Renewal Results
 - Our rates for group insurance will increase by 2.7% in September 2009 which is an increase of \$168 per month (Current \$6,245 to \$6,413)

BD-09-117

McMillan - Bilton

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the results of the group benefits outlined in the renewal Memorandum effective September 1, 2009 and outlines an overall increase of premiums of approximately 2.7%.”

CARRIED

A Communications Progress Report was presented.

- Conservation Scholarships
 - presentations were made in July to the scholarship winners. The Conservation Scholarship program rewards graduating high school students continuing their post secondary studies in a conservation related field based on their academic achievement and their demonstrated interest and involvement with the environment. In total, \$2,800 was awarded across the St. Clair region this year.
 - Felicia Syer from Lambton Central Collegiate and Vocational Institute and Nicole Robbins from Northern Collegiate Institute and Vocational School were selected as the recipients of the 2009 A.W. Campbell Memorial Scholarship. These \$1,000 scholarships are presented to the top two candidates among the applicants for scholarships offered by the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority.
 - four individuals received the Tony Stranak Conservation Scholarships this year: Joshua Deline, Lambton Kent Composite School; Sarah Campbell, Glencoe District High School; Brad Jennings, Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School; and Kevin McGregor, Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School. These students each received a \$200 award.
 - the scholarships are made possible through trust funds established by the St. Clair Region Conservation Foundation and its donors.
- Teachers Information Manual: with the Conservation Education Program about to launch into its season, a new promotional flyer was produced highlighting the numerous programs available to students. The flyers were distributed to each teacher in the region highlighting the 28 outdoor and 4 in-classroom programs offered. Teachers are directed to a more detailed booklet on our website that described each program and the applicable curriculum ties are shown so that the teachers can see how we can help bring a hands-on approach to existing curriculum requirements.
- Upcoming Memorial Forest Dedications
 - McKenzie and Blundy Memorial Forest Dedication: Wawanosh Wetlands Conservation Area, September 20, 2:00 pm
 - St. Clair Region Conservation Foundation Memorial Forest Dedication: Lorne C. Henderson Conservation Area, September 27, 2:00 pm

BD-09-118

Douglas - Burrell

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the Communications Report, dated August 19, 2009, including Conservation Scholarships, Outdoor Education Flyer and upcoming memorial forest dedications.”

CARRIED

An education staff report was reviewed.

- Yellow Fish Road
 - Yellow Fish Road (YFR) is an environmental education program spearheaded by Trout Unlimited Canada. The goal of YFR is to teach the public about storm drain pollution by distributing fish shaped brochures to neighbouring households that teaches them that everything that goes down the storm drain, goes to the local water body untreated. Environmentally friendly alternatives, such as washing your car with biodegradable soap are encouraged. Volunteers also paint yellow fish symbols next to storm drains to remind them that their actions not only harm local wildlife, but also the quality of their drinking water. The SCRCA, as an approved partner, will be recruiting schools and youth groups to participate in this ‘hands-on’ environmental project.
 - so far, we have created a promotional flyer aimed at teachers and a power point presentation to be used when delivering the recruitment presentations. A promotional piece to be featured on the SCRCA website has been drafted. All the supplies have been ordered.
 - we plan on undertaking the painting during September and October. The Young Naturalists have verbally agreed on the beginning of September, although no formal date has been set. Three teachers from Bright's Grove on trips to LCH also expressed interest. When contacted by phone, four organizations requested more information. Two churches who plan on starting up youth groups also expressed interest.
- Special Events
 - Art Walk June 6, Sarnia - this was our 3rd year presenting a mini water festival at this outdoor event. Roughly 2,000 people attended the 2 day event. Our display and activities promote conservation of water and it's importance in our watershed and beyond.
 - Kids Funfest June 13, Sarnia - thousands of kids enjoy this fabulous event that provides activities and displays on many different topics such as our Wetlands display showing children the wonders that exist in our wetland habitats.
 - Butterfly Workshop July 31 and August 1, Sarnia - Conservation Education Technician and Lambton /Kent teachers held their first Monarch Teacher Network event. MTN is a network of Canadian, American and Mexican teachers who are bringing Monarch butterflies into their classroom and communities. The Monarch's journey offers learning opportunities in language arts, math, science, social studies, Spanish, the arts and technology. Outdoor staff hope to compliment teachings in the classroom with an outdoor experience at our facilities. Many conservation messages can be incorporated into this program.
 - Wambo Antique Boat and Car Show August 8, Wallaceburg - Conservation Authority staff provided a mini children's water festival at this event. An enviroscape model showing best management practises, Watershed Twister game, a live wetlands display, Rolling through your shed game and more, introduced many children and parents to the importance of healthy water systems.

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- Skills Link Petrolia - Lorne C. Henderson Conservation Area, June 4 - Skills Link Petrolia students spent a day with Education Technician learning how to run environmental day camps. Skills Link participants are young students looking to get back into the work field. Skills Link program provides many opportunities to be involved with local events and businesses so students can be exposed to many fields of employment. One requirement of students is to run a certain amount of events successfully in order to pass the course. One of the Petrolia students chose day camps as she was interested in the field. After training, Skills Link held two all day camps at LCH. They did an excellent job. I hope that we can continue our relationship as it helps us to provide more activities for our camp ground families.
- Day Camps
 - June 14th Presentation at Moore Sports Complex
 - June 15th Walpole Island group at the Dow Wetlands
 - June 17th Boys and Girls club at the Dow Wetlands
 - June 20th Presentation at Camp Saredaca Outdoor Centre
 - June 28th Oil Discovery group at the Dow Wetlands
 - June 29th Endangered species presentation (emphasis on butterflies) to Bible camp group
- Marsh Monitoring Program - Conservation Authority education staff coordinate this program locally. Collection of Marsh Monitoring data has been sent to Birds Studies Canada. Trained birders and nature buffs collect the data from wetlands in our area. Bird Studies provides us with the results. This is another way of monitoring the health of our wetland communities. All previous sites were monitored with the exception of Canatara Park and 1 new site, Roberta Wetlands has been added to the list of sites monitored.
- River RAP video shoot – August 24th - the day finally arrived! Children from Sarnia to Florence showed up to participate in the River RAP video. The main sites used along the river were Centennial Park, Guthrie Park, Willow Park, and Branton Cundick Park. Background shots highlighted some of the impairments to the water and some of the Remedial Action Plan Projects in place. (wetland at Branton Cundick Park) It was a huge success and we are all looking forward to seeing the video sometime mid September. I know even non Rappers are going to love the tune and most importantly the message.

BD-09-119**Marriott - MacKinnon**

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the education staff report dated August 21, 2009 including Yellow Fish Road, Special Events, Day Camps and the Marsh Monitoring Program.”

CARRIED

A staff report on the Draft Vulnerability Assessment Reports for the Lambton Area Water Supply System and Petrolia Water Treatment Plant Intake Protection Zones was discussed.

- The Source Protection Committee is currently working on The Vulnerability Assessment Report. This report will:
 - contain the science which the Source Protection Plan is based
 - identify vulnerable areas
 - assess the vulnerability of those areas
 - identify water quality threats, issues and conditions related to the water sources
 - assess the risks to the water systems

Board of Directors Meeting, September 17, 2009

- In our region, we have received peer reviewed drafts of the Vulnerability Assessment Report for the Lambton Area Water Supply System and Petrolia Intake Protection Zones. This represents the first phase of the Assessment Report which outlines the area around the intake that is considered vulnerable and assigns scores to each area indicating how vulnerable each zone is considered. The next phase, yet to be complete, is an assessment of the specific threats within each zone.
- Lambton Area Water Supply System Intake Protection Zone - this intake is considered a Connecting Channel intake and received a vulnerability score of 8 for IPZ 1 and 6.4 for IPZ 2 on a scale of 0 – 10. These scores reflect the vulnerability this intake has due in part to its location in the shipping channel of the St. Clair River.
- Petrolia Water Treatment Plant Intake Protection Zone - the Petrolia Water Treatment Plant Intake is a Great Lake Intake, and as such is considered on of the least vulnerable types of surface water intakes in the province. For this type of intake, however, it received the highest possible vulnerability score possible with a score of 7 for IPZ 1 and 6.3 for IPZ 2. This was due, in part, to the intake's close proximity to shore and the resultant influence from the land. In addition this intake is very shallow (only 5.6 m)
- Phase One Consultation - the first phase of consultation on the Assessment Report has taken place for the Lambton Area Water Supply System and Petrolia Intake Protection Zones. This phase deals with the above Vulnerability Assessment components of the report.
- letters, accompanied by additional information was sent to each landowner living within the Intake Protection Zones. The package included a letter, an invitation and a flyer to encourage participation at an open house. Over 3,600 invitations were mailed out. The open house was held on Thursday, August 6 at the Huron Oaks Golf Club. Fifty-six people attended. Excellent comments and feedback were received.

BD-09-120**Bruziewicz - MacKinnon**

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated August 19, 2009 on the Draft Vulnerability Assessment Reports for the Lambton Area Water Supply System and Petrolia Water Treatment Plant Intake Protection Zones.”

CARRIED

The meeting went In Camera to discuss personnel issues.

BD-09-121**Gilliland - MacKenzie**

“That the Board of Directors go in camera at 2:37 p.m. to discuss personnel issues with the General Manager remaining.”

CARRIED**BD-09-122****Bruinink - McMillan**

“That the Board of Directors rise and report at 2:54 p.m.”

CARRIED

The Mary Jo Arnold Conservation Scholarship has received over 130 donations to date with a principle amount of \$10,600 as of this meeting date. The first scholarship is proposed for Spring 2010 in

conjunction with the award of the A. W Campbell Conservation Scholarships and the Tony Stranak Conservation Scholarships. The Arnold scholarship is proposed to be \$500 per year.

BD-09-123

Burrell - Gilliland

“That the Conservation Authority contribute to the Mary Jo Arnold Conservation Scholarship the difference between the interest earned on the principle and \$500 until such time that the interest earned on the principle carries the scholarship.”

CARRIED

The Corporate Compensation Study currently being undertaken by McDowell and Associates is well underway and the Board, requested the Executive Committee review the report with a recommendation to the Board. The Executive committee will meet prior to the November Board meeting.

BD-09-123

Bilton - Gilliland

“That the meeting be adjourned.”



Norm Giffen
Chairman

Ralph Coe
General Manager