

September 16, 2010

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

Directors Present: Andy Bruziewicz, Chair; Steve Arnold, Vice Chair; Bill Bilton, Terry Burrell, Joe Faas, Norm Giffen, Percival Heath, Carolyn Jamieson, Larry MacKenzie, Betty Ann MacKinnon, Jon McEachran, Dan McMillan, Allan McNeil, Steve Miller, Lonny Napper, John Phair

Directors Regrets: Tony Bruinink, Kevin Marriott, Tom McGregor, Martin Vink

Also Present for all or part of Meeting: Ralph Coe, General Manager
Marlene Dorrestyn, Administrative Assistant
Brian McDougall, Director of Watershed Services
Rick Battson, Director of Communication
Patty Hayman, Director of Planning & Research
Kevan Baker, Director of Conservation Areas
Bill Dakin, Director of Financial Services

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and requested a minute of silence in memory of Strathroy-Caradoc's Mayor, Mel Veale who recently passed away. It was 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.

BD-10-094

Burrell - Jamieson

“That the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting, held June 10, 2010, be approved as distributed.”

CARRIED

The General Manager's Report was presented.

- Funding approvals
 - Provincial Operating Grants from the Ministry of Natural Resources: the 2010 MOU for the provincial transfer payment from the Ministry of Natural Resources in the amount of \$310,000.00 has been signed and funds arrived on September 7, 2010. 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.
 - WECI (Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure) MNR: Conservation Ontario wrote a letter to the Minister of Natural Resource regarding the reduction of 2010 funding allocations to this critical capital From 5.0 million to \$4.5 million. These reductions were felt in our Authority with no WECI funds allocated to the Guthrie Park Erosion Control project. Meetings with our local MPP office and their efforts along with staff were unable at this time to have the funding awarded for phase 3. The list of approved capital projects and studies is outlined in the Water Management section.
 - Source Water Protection – Thames-Sydenham Region: the 2010/11 Memorandum of Understanding based on the Business Plan is approved. The total funds available for the

Board of Directors Meeting - September 16, 2010

Thames-Sydenham Region is approximately \$1,400,000.00 comprised of Operating/Administration and Water Budget (technical studies). There was a slight reduction in funding, however the business plan has been adjusted to meet the needs of the program through carry forward and adjustments. St. Clair's share to support wages, office, information technology will be approximately \$400,000.00

- RAP (Remedial Action Plan) Co-ordinator – St. Clair River: funding has been confirmed from Environment Canada and Ministry of Environment for the 2nd year and continued support for the RAP Co-ordinator. Key work continues in the AOC for delisting and the studies and proposed methods to address the sediment issues in the AOC.
- 2011 Draft Budget: staff has prepared the draft budget for programs and projects for the year 2011. 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 17, 2011. We are tracking for another financially successful year for 2010 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. OMERS, benefits, utilities, etc. will be detailed later. Funding partners ie MNR, Environment Canada HSP etc. have been slow in providing their funding commitments. We have been extremely successful in partnership agreements for 2010 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.

- Habitat Stewardship (Environment Canada) – Great Lakes Sustainability Fund - 120,000.00 approved providing significant support for Best Management Practices to rural landowners, education for children and, research etc.
- Species at Risk: Ministry of Natural Resources -- \$50,000 approved: to support best management practices, education in the Sydenham River corridor.
- RBC-Blue Water fund: \$5000 approved to support further development of the Strathroy Water Trail; \$5000 approved to support species at risk, newsletter and outdoor education awaiting response from three additional applications for habitat work at Guthrie Shoreline protection, \$5000, outdoor education \$5000, and , \$5000 to support best management practices with landowners in the Lake Huron watershed.
- Campgrounds (Warwick, A. W. Campbell, Henderson): Labour Day weekend: the areas experienced a very busy and successful weekend. All 500 sites at the 3 campgrounds were full with additional overflow areas utilized. We did not experience any significant weekend incidents. Revenue/expenditure comparisons (report in package) outlines the increased use of the areas for 2010 over 2009. This is excellent, based on our current economic climate. Upgrades to our Infrastructure improvements in 2010 ie. washroom upgrades, hydro upgrades, roads, drainage, etc. has proven to be very successful, in customer service and retaining campers (Conservation Areas report)
- AMO conference – Windsor : August 2010. – FYI: Conservation Ontario has circulated a copy of keynote speaker's remarks from the AMO conference including the remarks of Tim Hudak, Leader of the Official Opposition. "Today, we see a troubling trend where the priorities of unelected and

unaccountable bureaucrats, managers and administrators are trumping elected local governments. From conservation authorities to Places to Grow, to the Greenbelt, to a broken gas tax formula that picks winners and losers based on whether your town owns a bus – we see interference with the local communities’ power to make decisions.”

Note: If directors or our member municipalities feel there is any concern with the programs or services provided, we are pleased to review and discuss at any time. Our effort to support the decision making process for safe and sustainable development in a timely fashion is key to the proactive approach for the region.

- Ontario Trillium Foundation: the Conservation Authority received \$75,000 for a three year program to develop a natural heritage study for Sarnia Lambton. Partners in this plan include the County of Lambton, City of Sarnia, Sarnia Urban Wildlife and Carolinian Canada. Attached is a congratulatory note from MPP, Bob Bailey. Detailed report of participants and study outcomes was in the June 2010 board package.
- Communities in Bloom: Authority staff participated in profiling municipal/authority partnerships and facilities when the judges visited the community of Dresden .
- Mining and Lands Commissioner. - Girgis vs St. Clair - appeal of decision: Mona Girgis has dropped the appeal and agreed to partial compensation of the Conservation Authority’s legal costs. A detailed report is in the board package.
- Latornell Conservation Symposium. Alliston, November 17th-19th: theme: Biodiversity: Connecting People, Land and Water www.latornell.ca - expected attendance of approximately 1000 and 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 the University of Guelph. For symposium details or interest in attending, please ask me for information or view the website www.latornell.ca
- Meetings/events.
 - June 24 / August – SWP Committee meeting- St. Clair Office.- these minutes are found on the Conservation Authority website.. www.scrca.on.ca
 - June 28-29- Conservation Ontario Council Meeting, Toronto, regular meeting and strategic planning session -CO rep and GM.. – 5 year strategic plan has been developed
 - July 23, Official opening of Long Point Region Conservation Authorities new office. Relocated to Tillsonburg- and have acquired the former Tobacco Exchange building.
 - Thursday Sept 9, 2010, re: Sarnia Lambton Tourism, Alvinston.
 - Sunday, September 19th, 2:00 pm McKenzie and Blundy Memorial Forest Dedication Ceremony - Wawanosh Wetlands C.A.
 - Sunday September 26th, 2:00 pm Foundation Memorial Forest Dedication, Lorne C. Henderson C.A.
 - October 4, Conservation Ontario - Toronto,
 - October 21, Foundation Board meeting - Strathroy – 10:00 am Admin office

Strathroy and District Chamber of Commerce: Gala and Awards Celebration

The St. Clair Region Conservation Authority will be honoured on Sept 16, 2010 at the annual Gala and Awards Celebration with the presentation of the Community Involvement Award. The award recognizes the leadership, partnerships, and volunteerism by the organization and individuals provided to the community. This award is sponsored by the Municipality of Strathroy-Caradoc and selected by a committee of the Chamber of Commerce. The nomination came from Brenda Meulendyks of Flagstone Financial, Dundee Wealth and a former President of the Chamber of Commerce. Some examples

referenced the Conservation Authority's of the commitment to improve the environmental well-being of the community through a partnership approach included: Annual community clean up with schools, Lions Club, Langs buses, Fanshawe College and the municipality: the Strathroy Water Trail through Progress through partnerships, leadership with the development of the Rotary Trail, reforesting public lands through Denning's Memorial Forest program, TD Friends of Environment projects with local organizations and a list was gracious and that goes beyond. A recognition by business to public service. Also recognized was individual's commitment to give back to the community through their volunteer efforts on local organizations, clubs, committees, boards.

Congratulations: to Bill and Mary Lou Bilton on the celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary.

General Managers Retirements:

Paul Emerson, CAO of the Grand River Conservation Authority retired Sept 7, 2010 after 33 years with the Conservation Authority. Paul will assume the position of CAO for the County of Brant.

Jim Kelleher, GM of Lower Trent will retire Sept 30 after 36 years in the Conservation Authorities movement and the past 24 years as Lower Trent's GM.

Dick Hunter, CAO of Otonabee Region Conservation Authority (Peterborough) retired in June. Dick was the former GM of Conservation Ontario and a former Regional Director with the Ministry of Natural Resources.

BD-10-095

Miller – MacKenzie

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the General Manager's report, dated September 8, 2010.”

CARRIED

The Conservation Area Update was reviewed:

Background:

the Conservation Authority owns 14 conservation areas in the watershed of those 14 conservation areas, 6 are managed by the local municipality and 8 are operated by the Conservation Authority of these 8, 3 conservation areas are regional campgrounds which attract campers from primarily Southwestern Ontario our three regional campgrounds have over 500 campsites and over 380 seasonal campers our campgrounds are self sufficient and require no tax dollars to operate profits obtained are used to offset capital improvements within these regional conservation areas

L.C. Henderson Conservation Area:

the lobby area floor in the main washroom building has been upgraded with coloured concrete with a saw cut design

a new glass aluminium entry door and side lights have been installed to the main washroom building

playground equipment has been installed as a project of the St. Clair Conservation Foundation

5 mini putt holes have been re-carpeted

motion sensor lighting has been installed in the main washroom building as an energy conservation initiative roads have been upgraded with gravel and the local township has graded the main entrance roadway a privacy fence has been constructed around the dump station portions of our trail system have been resurfaced with chip and dust

an information kiosk has been added at the gate house, this will advertise facilities and promote activities and services in the conservation area construction to enclose the pavilion has been suspended due to requirements imposed on the project by the local building inspection department

A.W. Campbell Conservation Area:

hydro service has been upgraded to 11 existing campsites (upgrade to include new underground hydro and receptacles)

water supply pump house has been upgraded with new exterior siding and entrance door visitor centre has been renovated with new kitchen cupboards and sink for camper events and activities

also to the visitor centre a new entrance door has been installed, the deck overhang has been sided and a new concrete side walk has been installed

motion sensor lighting has been installed in the pool washrooms as an energy conservation initiative

a new brochure rack has be added to the exterior of the gate house building, this will permit prospective campers the opportunity to obtain promotional information when the gate house is closed

an information kiosk has been added at the visitor centre to advertise events and promote activities in the conservation area

plans are on-going to secure appropriate permits and designs to develop a new access roadway into the conservation area (the existing roadway was constructed in the early 1970's and is frequently overtopped by high water on Morrrough Creek)

new playground equipment has been installed as a project of the St. Clair Region Conservation Foundation

Warwick Conservation Area:

the woodlot women's washroom renovations have been completed; the renovations included all new plumbing and fixtures, 2 new shower stalls, ceramic tile floors, new counter tops and sinks and a new ventilation system

14 parkview campsites have been serviced with upgraded hydro and water

the existing playground equipment has been repainted and powdered coated

motion sensor lighting has been installed in the main campground and woodlot campground washrooms

new playground equipment will be installed as a project of the St. Clair Conservation Foundation

an information kiosk has been added at the gate house, this will advertise facilities and promote activities and services in the conservation area

a utility pole on the main hydro supply line was been replaced

a canoe rack has been constructed to store our rental canoes
 a number of picnic tables have been repaired with new paint and boards
 roads have been resurfaced with gravel and the local township has graded the main roadways

Warwick Conservation Area Hydro Monitoring:

Warwick Conservation Area has 230 campsites of which 178 sites are occupied by seasonal campers, the remaining sites are available for overnight camping
 this year Hydro One completed many upgrades to their overhead power lines and poles in the Warwick Village area

a utility pole and associated hardware on the main supply line to the campground was replaced

Hydro One also installed a metering device from July 9th to July 16th at the first transformer inside the conservation area, this measured the voltage at that location each hour
 staff also completed periodic checks (with our volt meter) of the voltage supplied to campers (hydro checks were taken from vacant sites throughout the main camping area, as most camper did not want their hydro plugs disconnected)

Hydro One's results showed that there are voltage drops in the hydro supplied to the campground, however these drops are within the normal operational range (voltage drop occurs between 10 am and 8 pm when there is the greatest demand on the hydro system)

our checks indicated that hydro supplied to campsites also fall within the normal operational level (above 106 volts) with readings ranging from 111 to 119 volts
 although this summer has been extremely hot, staff have received few complaints concerning our hydro supply system

Highland Glen Conservation Area:

the harbour and boat ramp area has been dredged to provide a safe harbour and access to Lake Huron

roads have been upgraded with gravel and the local Township has graded the main roadway

3 new picnic tables have been added at the pavilion

Wawanosh Wetlands Conservation Area:

one new bench has been added along the trail system and two existing have been repaired with new top boards

repairs have been made to the steps on the viewing tower

a number of trees along the trails and access roadway have been trimmed back to provide better access

McKenzie & Blundy's Memorial dedication is scheduled for September 19th

Strathroy Conservation Area:

a number of boardwalks have been re-established and repaired due to spring flooding which occurred in the conservation area and wetlands this year

the Royal Bank has donated \$ 5,000.00 towards the upgrade of access points, signage and promotion of the Strathroy water trail (the water trail is a partnership project of the Municipality of Strathroy-Caradoc and the Conservation Authority).

4 new fishing access points with benches have been constructed at the Strathroy Wetlands Conservation Area

Marketing in 2010: Our conservation areas have been marketed in the following publications or events in 2010:

- camping ads have been placed in 6 weekly newspapers from early April to July
- Sarnia Lambton Tourism Guide
- Blue Water Tourism Guide (in partnership with other Conservation Authorities)
- Middlesex Home & Leisure Show (Strathroy Gemini complex – April 24th)
- Ontario Travel Centre Open House – June 8th
- Conservation Ontario Conservation Areas Guide – this guide has been produced to highlight selected conservation areas throughout Ontario
- Camping visitor guide has been placed at Tourism Lambton, Ontario Travel Centre, and at a number of our local municipal offices.

Camping Report:

- our 3 regional campgrounds have been busy this summer, gross revenues are up 4.6% to almost \$ 750,000 and net revenues are up 8.5 % (end of July financial summary).
- seasonal camping numbers have also increased in 2010, to date a total of 383 seasonal campers have registered in our 3 campgrounds, up from 370 in June of this year; seasonal campers registered at each campground are 178 at Warwick (174 in June); 111 at L.C. Henderson (112 in June) and 94 at A.W. Campbell (84 in June).

BD-10-096

Bilton – Napper

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the Conservation Areas Update, dated September 2, 2010 on regional campgrounds and conservation area activities.”

CARRIED

A report on Conservation Area revenue and expenditures was discussed:

Revenues to July are up 5% and expenditures are down 1% and overall campgrounds are running a 9% surplus.

BD-10-097

Faas – McEachran

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the Conservation Area Campground revenue and expenditure report to July 31, 2010.”

CARRIED

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

Drinking Water Source Protection

- on-going acquisition of data relating to Tier 2 sub-watershed stress assessments notably wells in the Upper Thames region
- working on a Source Protection Planning Advisory Committee to establish common ground for policy development and language for Source Protection Plans
- collecting existing and potential policies that may be incorporated into Source Plans
- assisted in the completion of Upper Thames Proposed Assessment Report

Intake Protection Zone -3 work for the St. Clair Region Source Protection Area has started with completion by Feb 2011

continued assistance with GUDI studies for the Thames, Sydenham & Region

Flood Forecast & Warning

daily and monthly acquisition of hydrologic and climate data

continued upgrading of watershed data analysis tools including data storage (BRFU and HEC-DSS) as well as the development of in-house tools and graphic interface (GDAT)

development of pricing structure to compensate department for data requests from third parties

brought new rain gauge equipment online (four additional stations) to improve precipitation measurement and trend analysis

completed elevation surveys for all components relating to hydrologic stations to confirm correct calibration of flow and level measurements.

Low Water Response

continued monitoring of watershed conditions to determine current status in relation to MNR reporting standards

Reforestation/Conservation Services

assessed the trees in the trees planted the spring of 2009 at the North Strathroy buffer reforestation site, and applied herbicide to establish the living trees (TP)

installed topsoil, filter cloth shrubs and mulch at the Twin Creeks Landfill site

Woodlot Management

final draft of the Lambton County Heritage Forest Plan sent to Lambton County for Approval

installed new fencing along the boundary of the Port Franks Dune

assisted the Lambton County Woodlot Owners Association with the joint Tree Growers and Information Day Bus Tour

met with logger at McAlpine Tract and private woodlot to discuss a conifer contract

- Drain Maintenance Program

- started Municipal Brush control for Malahide and Southwest Middlesex Townships approximately 60 kilometres

- Phragmites control for St. Clair Township approximately 35 kilometres

- Water & Erosion Control Infrastructure

- annual review of erosion control and shore protection rehabilitation projects at Point Edward waterfront, Mission & Guthrie Park

- soils report review and administration for Cathcart Park Shore Protection Rehabilitation Project

- McKeough Dam & Upstream Lands

- project tendering, administration and supervision of McKeough Floodway Drop Structure Crack Repair, Drain Crossing & Erosion Control in Browning Drain Outlet

- a septic system was salvaged from McKeough Upstream property 47 and installed at the McKeough Dam

- reviewed installation of sewers to 3 rental properties and assisted in trench leveling and seeding

- ongoing fence repair and channel spraying for weed control

- McKeough staff also had 2 important wildlife sightings – confirmed sighting of a Bobwhite Quail at Property 56 just southeast of Wilkesport and a possible sighting of an American Badger at the Dam site
- Land Management
 - sale of McKeough house in Wilkesport - provincial approval received and title transferred July 7 2010
- Permits to Take Water
 - reviewed application from Shell Refinery to renew their permit to take water for industrial purposes from St Clair River
- Water Quality - Surface Water
 - designed and implemented an aesthetic monitoring protocol and filed sheets for St. Clair River monitoring.
 - completed summer PWQMN, COA and St. Clair River surface water quality sampling. Analyzed preliminary results.
- Water Quantity (PGMN)
 - continue monthly data collection including calibration of instruments to confirm accuracy
 - assess and test the condition of all well pump equipment in preparation for groundwater quality testing in late September
- Fish Habitat Review
 - reviewed 61 municipal drain projects including many maintenance works and culvert replacements
 - site visits necessary for 14 projects including proposals on Clay Creek (St Clair Twp), Morrough Creek (Adelaide-Metcalf) and Black Creek (Enniskillen)
- Data Management
 - updated Fisheries Habitat Review, Electrofishing, and water quality databases.
- Natural Heritage
 - Lambton Natural Heritage Study – North-South Environmental completed field surveys on 7 sites where landowners approved access
 - developed presentation for Steering Committee orientation
 - presentation on Sydenham River Species at Risk, for the Dresden, Chatham-Kent Communities in Bloom tour
- Species At Risk
 - coordinated Sydenham turtle monitoring: prepared maps, co-ordinated volunteers, delivered monitoring equipment etc.
 - entered and analyzed turtle monitoring data.
 - assisted MNR with Blackstripe Topminnow monitoring
 - continued monitoring three turtle nesting sites
 - organized a turtle volunteer appreciation event
- Habitat Stewardship Program
 - completed summary of BMPs 2001-2009, including photographs of select “showcase” projects
- Health & Safety
 - continuing to meet monthly to review the policies, procedures and reporting
 - reviewing standard operating procedures, instruction sheets, and accident reports
 - updating safety equipment and safety board at Workshop

- all remaining Department staff have been reviewing work locations and workplace procedures to ensure that safe practices are being followed

BD-10-098**McEachran - MacKinnon****“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the Activity Summary dated September 3, 2010, from the Watershed Services Department for June, July and August 2010.”****CARRIED**

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

- watershed precipitation: precipitation over the last three months across the watershed has returned to near normal values with 102% of the average recorded rainfall (fig 3.) as compared to the previous period of March through to May of 86.8%. This change was mostly due to increased rainfall in June and notably July for most areas with the exception of Sarnia having only 64% of normal rain in June and 90% overall for the entire reported period. By contrast August remains an extremely dry month across the watershed with most precipitation located in the upper parts of the watershed with Sarnia having 54% versus Strathroy with only 19% of the average for the month. Early indications suggest conditions will continue to be fairly dry into September impacting on the regional averages being 18% lower for the last six months and 27% lower for the previous twelve months.
- streamflows: streamflows reflect the reduced levels of precipitation across the watershed at the end of May while flows increased into June due to a period of precipitation in the first part of the month. By comparison flows in 2010 were higher than 2009 during June and again in mid-July corresponding with increased precipitation. Flows fell back to the anticipated lower seasonal levels in August and remained fairly constant due to the absence of any additional precipitation events throughout the entire month. In addition, current water levels for August have been compared to the mean levels for the Period of Record (10 to 50 years dependent on specific station) and in most cases all stations the reported that river levels were only 3% below the mean monthly level on record for August. Flows are expected to continue at near normal levels into September.
- flood threat: there is a low risk of flood events throughout moving into the fall months. No significant precipitation is anticipated further reducing the chance any high water conditions. Care should be taken during intense thunderstorm events where local conditions may change without warning (i.e. low lying areas and adjacent roadways or underpasses, drainage ditches and culverts). Advisories will continue to be provided as watershed conditions dictate.

BD-10-099**Miller - Faas****“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated September 3, 2010, 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 11 (2010-2011)

- Environment Canada’s Habitat Stewardship Program has confirmed funding of \$120,000 in grants to support education and outreach, stewardship projects, landowner contact and project follow-up
- Ministry of Natural Resources’ Species At Risk Stewardship Fund has confirmed funding of \$50,000 in grants to supports administration, landowner contact and stewardship projects
- staff have begun to collect applications for the stewardship project grants
- Public Services Announcements will be aired this fall Clean Water Project
- County and Municipal funding continues for this program again in 2010
- similar to the last several years of this program a suite of best management practices projects will be supported by the program in 2010
- South Eastern Lake Huron Working Group Grant
 - a working group of Conservation Authorities, Stewardship Councils, interest groups and Huron County has been successful in obtaining a grant of \$250,000 from the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food & Rural Affairs
 - this grant will support both watershed targeted and broad based stewardship projects, as well as a phosphorous monitoring project, 3 mapping projects and a youth educator summit
 - \$10,000 of this grant has been allocated for stewardship projects within the Lake Huron tributaries in the St. Clair Region
 - \$2,500 was allocated to a windbreak project on an organic farm that was completed this spring
 - the remaining \$7,500 has not yet been allocated however staff are visiting landowners to collect project for review later this fall

BD-10-100

McNeil - McEachran

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated September 3, 2010, on the Healthy Watersheds programs across the watershed.”

CARRIED

A Staff Report on Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure projects was presented. applications for grants have been submitted for 2010-2011 funding review. below:

- Cathcart Park Erosion Control Project - Class EA & Detailed Design Phase II
- Lake Huron Shoreline Structures - Lake Huron Shoreline Plan
- W. Darcy McKeough Dam - McKeough Floodway Operating Criteria Review
- Head Street Dam - Spillway Redistribution
- Courtright Waterfront Park
- Erosion Control Project - Safety Repairs & Shoreline Improvement
- Guthrie Park Erosion Control Project - Shore Protection Revitalization Phase III
- Seagar Park Erosion Control Project - Drain and Outlet Repairs
- Sarnia Erosion Control Project - Shore Protection Repair
- Running Creek Dykes - Dyke Erosion Control
- applications have been reviewed by a committee of provincial and conservation authority staff representatives, a list of approved projects is imminent

- correspondence from the Ministry of Natural Resources to Conservation Ontario has indicated that there may be a reduction in the amount of grant provided annually to the Water & Erosion Control Infrastructure Fund – Conservation Ontario has responded to MNR outlining the importance of maintaining these Provincially financed projects and the cost effective methods being employed by Authorities in undertaking this maintenance – further updates will be provided when information is available

2005 - 2006 WECI Projects		
Structure	Project Name	Status
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		
Structure	Project Name	Status
McKeough Dam	Watercourse Obstruction Removal	Staff have not been able to gain site access from the landowner to remove a large blockage on Bear Creek - Staff will continue to monitor the situation but will focus on removals at other high priority locations this fall or winter
2008 - 2009 WECI Projects		
Structure	Project Name	Status
McKeough Dam	Drop Structure Crack Repair Phase II	Completed August 2010

2009 - 2010 WECI Projects

Structure	Project Name	Status
ARDA Dyke	Hazard Tree Removal Along Weir Line	Scheduled to be completed in fall of 2010
McKeough Dam	Crossing Repair	Completed May 2010
McKeough Dam	Diversion Berm Erosion Repair	RFP for rehabilitation work has been sent. Work is expected to start mid September 2010.
McKeough Dam	Dam Safety Review	Completed May 2010
Centennial Park	Splash Pad Repair and Drainage Improvements	A portion of the work has been completed with remaining works to be completed in the summer and fall
Guthrie Park	Shore Protection Revitalization Phase II	Completed June 2010
Cathcart Park	Erosion Protection Revitalization Study	Project in preliminary design stage. Site characterization and topographic survey has been completed as of July 2010

- Drop Structure crack repair - Phase II:
 - the control structure was coated to provide protection and control appearance of additional cracks. The treatment involved high pressure wash, joint treatment, application of Fibre-Patch OV and application of two coats of Cem-Kote Flex St.

BD-10-101**Jamieson - MacKenzie**

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated September 3, 2010, on the Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure Projects across the watershed including funding approvals for 2010-2011 projects.”

CARRIED

A report on potential changes to speed limits on the Sydenham River and the Chenal Ecarte was discussed.

- the Municipality of Chatham-Kent is currently reviewing the potential of increasing the speed limits for boats on the Thames and Sydenham Rivers as well as the Chenal Ecarte
- a tour of the watercourses was proposed for May of this year, with municipal staff and elected officials as well as Conservation Authority staff from the Lower Thames Valley and St. Clair Region Conservation Authorities – unfortunately weather conditions and scheduling conflicts forced postponements and eventually the tour was dropped
- the current speed limits of 8km/hr (5 miles/hr) were established in 1975 in response to a request from local and regional elected officials through the Canada Shipping Act and the Boating Restriction Regulations – the request was made in direct response to concerns regarding erosion of the flood control dykes which were subject to significant wake and wash from boat traffic during a period of higher water levels
- the speed limit legislation is administered by the Office of Boating Safety of Transport Canada (with offices in Sarnia) and the speed limits are enforced by both local police forces and the Ontario Provincial Police
- Open Houses have been held in Chatham (August 17) and Wallaceburg (August 19) to advise the public of the potential application to change the speed limit and to obtain an understanding of public opinion and gather their comments
- although on the surface, it appears to be a somewhat simple situation, it is very complex
- a diverse range of pros and cons was identified at the Wallaceburg Open House – with a general emphasis on safety
- although safety is everyone’s responsibility, Authority staff focussed our comments on environmental concerns (erosion & flood control and habitat protection) from increasing the speed limit
- the dykes along the Sydenham and the Chenal are a component of municipal drainage schemes and protect thousands of acres of valuable farmland and hundreds of residences in the former Townships of Dover and Chatham
- at the time, the Authority was a proponent of a wake control as this can vary from boat to boat depending on size and speed, but it was recognized that a wake control would be difficult to enforce. Around 1975, the Federal government, through the Canada Shipping Act and the Boating Restriction Regulations, implemented a 5 mile an hour speed limit from the mouth of the McGregor Creek to the River Mouth. The Provincial government was originally charged with administering the legislation through the Ministry of Natural Resources, Fisheries & Wildlife Branch. However, in the last couple of years this has moved to the Office of Boating Safety, which is a division of Transport Canada. The local office is in Sarnia. The Province is responsible for enforcing the speed limit through the Ontario Provincial Police.
- Discussion:

- while protecting the valuable farmland by reducing the erosion to the dykes, the speed limit is one of the detriments to upstream tourism as at 5 miles an hour (~8 km/hr) it takes almost four hours to make the trip to Wallaceburg and return to Lake St. Clair. This would probably not be such a negative undertaking if the trip was more scenic, however, once the boats are into the dyked section they are virtually unable to see anything until they move past the dykes.
- further to the above discussion, all levels of government have invested significant funding into the reconstruction and maintenance of the dykes.
- the dyking that resulted from this project protects thousands of acres of agricultural land and hundreds of residences from flooding in the above noted former municipalities. The preservation and maintenance of these dykes are of significant importance to the persons protected by them.
- Changes to the Current Speed Limit
 - historically there have been several occasions where the former City of Chatham attempted to have the speed limit lifted but met with strong resistance from the former downstream municipalities and their ratepayers.
 - any proposed changes to the limit must be initiated by the municipality. The municipality would also be responsible for signage, and any changes would be as follows:- 10 km/h, 15 km/h, 25 km/h and increments of 15 km/h after 25 km/h (i.e. 40 km/h), etc.
 - if the municipality proposed to increase the speed limit on the Thames there are defined procedures to follow such as public consultations. The primary intent of speed limits on waterways is public safety and it is assumed that this would be a major consideration in any proponents attempt to change the limit.
 - apparently under the legislation a ‘company’ may apply for permission to have a ‘special event’ where an alternate speed limit would be allowed. In this circumstance the permit would be for specific dates and within specific times on those dates. The ‘company’ would also be responsible for enforcing the speed limit during these special events.
 - the municipality of Chatham-Kent may be entertaining this route but the Office of Boating Safety has not obtained a formal request.
- Recommendation
 - in the absence of scientific data that addresses the issues of environmental damage and erosion of the existing flood control structures, maintenance of the existing speed limits provides a level of protection that may not be available via other regulations

BD-10-102**Bilton - McMillan**

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated September 3, 2010, regarding potential changes to speed limits on the Sydenham River and the Chenal Ecarte, and further that when the scientific data or regulatory methods are provided to indicate that a higher speed limit will not negatively impact both public and private flood control projects on the lower Sydenham River and the Chenal Ecarte (Snye River), the Authority’s concerns regarding increased speed limits will be alleviated, but until such time the Authority supports maintaining the current speed limit of 8 km per hour on the river.”

CARRIED

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

- Phase II
 - paving and sodding of the site were completed in early June
 - due to the date, some of the large stock tree planting was postponed until fall, when Conservation Authority staff will complete these plantings
 - a site meeting on June 21, confirmed that that project is complete
 - final costs of the projects were under budget
- Phase III
 - a budget of \$770,000 has been confirmed for the project (St. Clair Township \$400,000; Community Adjustment Fund \$275,000; Great Lakes Sustainability Fund \$70,000; Ministry of Environment (COA) \$25,000)
 - funding from the Ministry of Natural Resources – Water & Erosion Control Infrastructure Fund has not been confirmed to date – unofficially the project appears to have fallen outside of the priority category when ranked with projects from across the Province – If funding is confirmed it will be used to offset the municipal contribution
 - tenders were advertised for this phase of the project during the week of August 2nd
 - 9 sets of tender documents and drawings were provided to 7 contractors and 2 builders associations
 - tenders closed on August 23rd – 3 firms submitted completed tenders
 - Coores Construction Inc. of Sarnia – who has completed both Phase I & II of this project - submitted the low price tender for the project \$843,529.18 (including tax and contingency of \$188,593.18)
- the contract for Phase III was awarded to Coores Construction Inc. on August 26th
- construction is expected to begin during the week of September 20th or before

BD-10-103

Giffen - Burrell

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated September 3, 2010, regarding the Guthrie Park Shore Protection Revitalization Project and confirms that the contract for phase III has been awarded to Coores Construction Inc. for a price of \$843,529.18 including tax and contingency.”

CARRIED

A report on the Turtle Survey conducted on the east Sydenham River was presented.

- in 2010, SCRCA completed our fifth year of Eastern Spiny Softshell Turtle monitoring on the East Sydenham. Using equipment provided by the CA, local volunteers looked for turtles along 15 km of the river from Rokeby Line to Florence. This species of softshell turtle has “Threatened” status under the federal Species at Risk Act and provincial Endangered Species Act. We also survey for Northern Map Turtles which are designated Special Concern in the Endangered Species Act.
- keen turtle-watchers (the majority of whom return each year) know that the time for turtle monitoring has arrived when the Oriental poppies bloom in the gardens in late May. The flowers indicate peak timing for pregnant Eastern Spiny Softshell Turtles to bask on river banks and on floating debris.
- from canoes, the best way to sneak up on these skittish reptilians, volunteers survey the river. Unfortunately, turtles can often detect even quiet and skilled canoeists. Observers may hear only the “plop” as “splashers” retreat into the water.

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- Donald Craig, a retired SCRCA employee and returning turtle volunteer, has honed his turtles spotting techniques. He advises new volunteers that more turtles are observed if the canoe is in front of any waterfowl which tend to spook basking turtles. It is also important not to create extra vibrations by bumping or rubbing paddles up against the boat, especially around tight bends. If detected, a patient observer can at least wait where the turtle slipped into the water and watch for them to re-surface. Along the water's surface look for the identifying straw-shaped snout of the Spiny Softshell or the green and yellow (with no red) head of the Northern Map Turtle. Small map turtles do not seem to be as skittish as the larger turtles of the same species, so close inspection of an area where a "plasher" was heard may reveal a few more individuals. Another volunteer, Harry Denkers, advised to look for something that just doesn't seem right. That is how, in 2007, he spotted the largest Spiny Softshell he has ever seen, balanced precariously relatively high out of the water. According to him, at first it was hard to believe that it was even a turtle.
- on field sheets, information is recorded about the turtle species, size and sex (if possible) along with geographic location, relevant habitat, weather and river conditions. Numbers of species of turtles observed each year are tallied and mapped. Roughly the same number of Northern Map turtles were observed in 2010, as in 2009 (119 and 118 respectively). 31 Spiny Softshell turtles were seen in 2010, compared to 66 in 2009, 57 in 2008 and 54 in 2007. A number of possible factors may contribute to this drop in softshell turtle sightings. The upper stretches, where there greatest amount are normally seen, were surveyed by inexperienced volunteers and staff. As well, water levels were low, and the canoe had to be carried over a few stretches of the river. It is likely that some turtles were spooked before being observed. Timing may also have been a factor. According to Upper Thames' softshell expert Scott Gillingswater, the turtles on the Thames River were nesting as early as mid to late May. Surveys in 2010 may have been completed after a particularly early peak basking time.
- along with the important scientific information gathered on populations of at-risk turtles in the Sydenham River, this volunteer-driven program is extremely beneficial in the stewardship it fosters. The volunteers who all live in the Sydenham River watershed are keen to share their experiences and enthusiasm for the river and the animals they observe year after year.

BD-10-104

MacKinnon - Faas

"That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated September 3, 2010, regarding the Turtle Survey conducted on the east Sydenham River earlier this year and trends compared to previous surveys."

CARRIED

A report on fish surveys undertaken on the Sydenham River this summer was explained.

- over the spring and summer fish were collected from three Sydenham River tributaries using minnow traps and dip nets. The fish will be part of an aquarium display at the Strathroy-Caradoc Museum, supported by SCRCA and the St. Clair Region Foundation. It includes interpretive material on Blacknose Dace, Brook Stickleback and other common Sydenham fishes. Entrance to the exhibit is free of charge.
- the Pets N Ponds store in downtown Strathroy manages the aquarium. The fish are kept at the store until they acclimatize to the new environment and where they can be observed for any sign of illness.

Some fish were moved to the museum in mid-August, the remaining will be observed for a few more weeks before they are moved over to the aquarium display.

- **Blackstripe Topminnow Monitoring**
 - the only Canadian location for Blackstripe Topminnow (BSTM) is about 60km² of the lower portion of the Sydenham River watershed. It is listed as a species of Special Concern in the federal Species at Risk Act and provincial Endangered Species Act
 - in late July to early August 2010, SCRCA staff assisted the MNR with sampling in Bear Creek at the SCRCA's Moore Wildlife Management Area. Over 30 BSTM were found at the site. The topminnows were also sampled in several other locations including: Black Creek, West and East Otter Creeks, the East Sydenham River, and Whitebread Drain. This work will help define the current distribution of this species, which prefers turbid water with abundant aquatic vegetation.
 - because of its unique behavior, the Blackstripe Topminnow is fairly easy to observe. As the name suggests, topminnows swim along the surface of the water where they feed almost exclusively on terrestrial invertebrates. From the shore, topminnows can often be seen skimming along the surface, causing a rippling action on the water surface. A light triangular spot can often be seen on the top of its head.
 - during sampling, topminnows appeared to react to predators in three ways: by freezing beneath floating debris or plant material; by darting or zig-zagging quickly along the surface in jerky irregular sprints (possibly using its reflected image above to confuse predators), or by diving below the water surface using turbidity to its advantage and disappearing from observers above.
 - based on preliminary observations this unusual topminnow appears to be thriving in the majority of habitats sampled. This may be due to improvements in aquatic habitats from better riparian buffers. Compared to previous surveys in the 1980s, there may be more vegetation bordering the watercourses, providing better cover and supplying insect food for this unusual fish. The researchers also tested the effectiveness of seining for monitoring Blackstripe Topminnow populations by performing multiple passes within each sampling area. Preliminary results of this research should be available by next spring.

BD-10-105

McEachran - Faas

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated September 3, 2010, regarding the Fish Surveys undertaken on the Sydenham River this summer and the collection and stocking of the aquarium at the Strathroy Museum.”

CARRIED

A report on surface water quality testing programs across the watershed was presented.

- the SCRCA assesses stream health and surface water quality by monitoring the 14 sub-watersheds within the SCRCA watershed. Monitoring data is used to quantify the effect of land-use activities, measure the effectiveness of stewardship and conservation best management practices, and as background for reports such as the SCRCA's Watershed Report Card. The 2010 water quality program is composed of benthic macroinvertebrate and stream water chemistry sampling.
- **Benthic Macroinvertebrate Sampling:** benthic invertebrates, such as crustaceans and aquatic larvae, are excellent indicators of water quality because they are affected by biological, chemical and

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physical properties of the aquatic environment. For example, the presence of water pennies and caddis flies, which are more sensitive to environmental degradation, can indicate a healthy watercourse. Staff conducted benthic monitoring at fifteen sites in May 2010. These samples will be processed over the winter and results will be used to calculate water quality scores for the SCRCA Watershed Report Card.

- Stream Water Quality: through the Provincial Water Quality Monitoring Network (PWQMN) and the Canada-Ontario Agreement (COA) monitoring program, SCRCA monitors 19 sites for water chemistry (including nutrients and metals). Additionally, with the support of the Middlesex-London Health unit, bacteria (*E. coli*) are monitored at the eight PWQMN sites.
- COA: the COA stations are sampled between April and November each year. The results from the Ministry of Environment for 2010 are pending.
- PWQMN: this program has run since 1964 in our region and provides a good indication of the watershed health of long-term. Eight key indicator parameters are used to analyze the data, including suspended solids (measured as particulate residue), chloride, total phosphorus, nitrate, copper, lead, zinc and *E. coli*. Five of the eight will be used in this staff report.
 - for 2010, we have completed all water sampling from April to August. Sample results have only been received for April and May. Generally values for 2010 are consistent with the 2005-2009 results. There are two bar graphs for each parameter. The left graph shows the progression of the East Branch of the Sydenham River starting in the headwaters at Hickory Drive and ending in Wallaceburg. The right graph shows the progression of the North Branch starting with Bear Creek near Petrolia and again ending in Wallaceburg. For 2005-2009 the 75th percentile is calculated for each sample site. There is also an average shown for 2010, which is calculated using April and May results. This is meant to give a very preliminary preview of 2010, as we have only received results from two samples.
 - Nitrate – in most cases of excess nitrate concentrations in aquatic systems, the primary source is surface runoff from agricultural or landscaped areas that have received excess nitrate fertilizer. The Canadian Water Quality Guidelines for Freshwater state that naturally occurring nitrate levels in Canadian lakes and rivers rarely exceed 4mg/L. In both the East and North branch of the Sydenham River, nitrate levels are near to this guideline. Reduction of inputs at the source through proper manure storage, livestock access restriction and increased riparian buffers all help to reduce nitrate levels.
 - Phosphorous is produced by natural processes, but major anthropogenic-influenced sources include: partially treated and untreated sewage, runoff from agricultural sites, and application of some lawn fertilizers. The interim Provincial Water Quality Objective (PWQO) to prevent excessive plant growth in rivers and streams is a concentration below 0.03mg/L. for total phosphorous. For 2005-2009 data, the 75th percentile of all sites exceeded the PWQO for total phosphorous in every year. To put this data into historical context, a decreasing trend is visible in two of the three sites (Bear Ck., SW of Petrolia and Katesville Dr.) that have been monitored since the 1970s. At the third station (Bear Ck, Avonry) the amount of phosphorous is about the same as it was in the 1970s. Like nitrate, phosphorous is filtered by vegetation, so increased buffers along watercourses have likely contributed to the decreasing trends. Removal of phosphorous from many commercial products, and more controlled use of fertilizer may also contribute to the observed reduction.

- Particulate Residue – this indicator measures the amount of fine particles of organic and inorganic matter such as silt, clay, plankton, and other microscopic organisms. Elevated levels of particulate residues can be detrimental to benthic invertebrates and periphyton communities which are important food sources for larger aquatic organisms. Soil erosion is the most common source of particulate residue. Erosion can be caused by a variety of activities, such as certain agricultural practices, drain maintenance activities, logging projects, lack of riparian buffer, and construction sites. There appears to be increasing trend for particulate material from upstream to downstream in both the North and East Branches, with the North Branch having generally higher values than the East Branch.
- E. coli - the Provincial Water Quality Objective(PWQO) for recreational activity is 100 cfu/100 mL. The 75th percentile of 2005-2009 was above the objective for E.coli all sites except Wallaceburg, which has Sydenham River water diluted by backflow from Lake St. Clair. All sites except the Katesville Dr., South of Strathroy and Bear Creek, Avonry meet the less stringent USEPA advisory standard of 235cfu/100mL. Epidemiological studies indicated that a level of 235 CFU of E. coli/100 mL of recreational water approximately correlates with eight cases of gastrointestinal illness per 1000 recreational water users.
- Chloride - sources of chloride include agricultural runoff, effluent from wastewater treatment plants and road salting. The province has not set chloride objectives for Ontario surface water, but the observed values are well below the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) criteria of 230mg/L for sensitive aquatic organisms. In fact, all are below 65mg/L or less than a third of the EPA guideline.
- in the East Branch, the Katesville Drive station downstream of Strathroy, has slightly higher chloride levels than the Hickory Drive station which is upstream of Strathroy . It also has a increasing trend for chloride values based on data starting in the 1970s. There may be a correlation between higher chloride levels observed at the station and the use of road salt on impervious surfaces in and around Strathroy. Restricted use of road salt or alternatives (e.g., beet juice) might help lower the chloride downstream of the town.
- in the North Branch, the 75th percentile of chloride from 2005-2009 is about 60mg/L. This is a great improvement compared to historically higher values which were due to excess brine, a by-product of the oil industry, that was outlet to surface waters. In the 1980s the 75th percentile of samples at stations on Bear Ck at both Marthaville Rd. and Bickford Ln was just under 200mg/L (which is more than three times what it is now). In 1989, a maximum value of 1510mg/L was sampled on Bear Creak at Marthaville Rd., SW of Petrolia. Regulations that required petroleum producers to pump brine back into the groundwater have helped to decrease chloride inputs in the North Branch.
- the results of the chemical analysis of our surface waters helps the Authority and the MOE track water quality issues that exist or may arise in the SCRCA watershed. One of the best solutions to lowering the levels of nutrients, metals and bacteria would be reducing the amount of suspended material that enter the watercourse through faulty septic systems, sewage treatment plant effluent, agricultural runoff, urban runoff, and erosion. Solutions include repairing septic systems, reducing the contaminants in sewage plant effluent, repairing areas subject to erosion and continuing to implement best management practices in the agricultural industry.

BD-10-106**Burrell - Arnold**

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated September 3, 2010, regarding surface water quality testing programs across the watershed.”

CARRIED

A report on summer water quality sampling along the St. Clair River undertaken on behalf of the Ministry of the Environment was discussed.

- St. Clair Conservation continued with the second summer of *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) monitoring at eight nearshore sites along the St. Clair River. Additionally, in 2010, an aesthetics survey was added to the protocol. This monitoring, funded by the Ministry of the Environment (MOE), is used to evaluate the Beneficial Use Impairment (BUI) relating to beach closings and degradation of aesthetics in the St. Clair Area of Concern (AOC).
- sampling locations were distributed along the St. Clair River from immediately upstream of the Bluewater Bridge down to Marshy Creek just north of Port Lambton. The station upstream of the Bluewater Bridge is considered a reference site for this AOC. Sites were sampled at ten intervals between June 2 and August 23, 2010.
- aesthetic observations
 - according to current delisting criteria, the aesthetics BUI will be considered unimpaired “when over a two year period there is/are no, objectionable deposits, unnatural colour or turbidity, or unnatural scum/floating materials.” In order to evaluate this status of this BUI, at each site observations were made of:
 - water appearance (clarity, colour, odour, visible debris)
 - substrate (woody debris and detritus presence or absence)
 - aquatic macrophytes and algae (presence or absence)
 - wildlife (presence and absence)
 - recreational users (types of uses)
 - there were no odours observed other than a weak fishy smell on three occasions. Other smells could be tied to local conditions (e.g., the smell of cresote at the Mooretown Boat launch from treated railway ties used in landscaping). Generally there was no visible debris in the water, the exception being garbage (e.g., disposable cups, plastic bottle, garbage bags and bait containers) that was present on the banks and occasionally (6 out of 72 times) in the water. Very small amounts of foam (likely natural in origin) were noted on several occasions. Foam seemed to be associated with breaking waves on windy days. Generally, the water colour in the main St. Clair channel was the signature blue-green/blue-grey that gives the Bluewater Bridge its name. In the nearshore more natural areas (e.g., Regan Park) the water took on a brown appearance due to the churning of organic material.
- bacteriological sampling
 - according to current delisting criteria, the beach closings BUI will be considered unimpaired when there are “Zero beach closings based on fecal coliform standards regulating beach guidelines over a two year period.” In order to attain data required to evaluate the status of this BUI, surface water was sampled for *E. coli*.
 - the preliminary laboratory results for 2010 sampling indicate that the majority of the sites have *E. coli* below the Ontario recreational guideline of 100cfu/100mL. *E. coli* concentrations were generally lowest in the upstream sample locations. So far, in 2010, the

geometric means for both Branton-Cundick Park and Reagan Park, south of Sombra exceed the recreational use guideline.

- four rain events that occurred close to sample collection likely influenced the higher numbers seen at Branton-Cundick Park and Reagan Park in 2010. As expected, rain events corresponded to the higher than average E. coli levels for samples taken June 2nd, June 28th, July 12th and July 19th. In 2009, rain August 11th also corresponded to higher E. coli levels.
- at Branton-Cundick Park goose droppings were noted at every sample point throughout the summer. A maximum of 155 geese were observed on August 23, 2010. It was noted multiple times on field data sheets that goose feces were difficult to avoid.
- Reagan Park is located in a sheltered area which is more natural than other sites. It is one of only two stations without a steel retaining wall or armoured shoreline. Wave action stirs up the sandy bottom and silty sediment giving the water a brownish-green colour. The site has an excellent diversity of flora and fauna. Native plants include a broad range of emergent aquatic plants such as narrow-leaved cattail, arrowhead and large fruited bur weed. The greatest diversity of birds was noted here, with regular sightings of killdeer, sandpipers, red-winged black-birds, common tern, turkey vultures and others.

The directors requested that staff get a price to have the test done in Sarnia Bay.

BD-10-107

McMillan - MacKenzie

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated September 3, 2010, regarding summer water quality sampling along the St. Clair River undertaken on behalf of the Ontario Ministry of the Environment.”

CARRIED

A report summarizing Fish Habitat Review undertaken on behalf of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans was reviewed.

- background
 - in addition to natural watercourses, the SCRCA region includes over five thousand kilometers of municipal drains
 - these systems contribute to fish habitat
 - when staff review proposed “alterations to watercourses” under SCRCA Regulations we must also review potential effects to fish habitat under the federal Fisheries Act
 - since 1998 the SCRCA has partnered with Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) to speed up the fish habitat review process for municipal drain projects
- benefits
 - efficient drain review benefits all member municipalities
 - partnership with DFO helps municipalities avoid delays in obtaining advice or Authorization approvals from DFO
 - review helps municipalities avoid damage to fish habitat and potential fines or prosecution under the Fisheries Act
 - improved sediment control, erosion control and off-season timing improves the water quality and aquatic habitats in the SCRCA, and keeps the soil on the land
- how does the SCRCA speed up the Drain review process?

- SCRCA has access to detailed mapping of the drain classifications and Aquatic Species at Risk habitat; thorough knowledge of our watersheds and good relations with Drain Superintendents and DFO staff
- in the last twelve months we processed 189 Municipal Drain projects for fish habitat issues, including 176 municipal drain projects and 13 CA Regulated projects
- this is a 10% increase from the previous twelve months
- our turnaround time is usually days or weeks, while DFO turnaround is usually weeks or months
- where the watercourse was not classified or the Drain Super knows it was mis-classified, a site visit is arranged for DFO to provide a temporary classification
- 11 projects had the potential for serious effects on fish habitat, including Species at Risk, and were referred to DFO
- 33 projects had no fisheries concerns (“sign off” with a phone call or email) or could be guided by a DFO Operational Statement or we waived a Section 78 environmental appraisal requirement
- 49 projects could proceed under Class Authorizations, because the SCRCA could confirm the classification of the drain, obtain DFO “sign off” and forward the Class Authorization guidance to the Drain Superintendent
- for the other 96 projects we provided a 2-3 page Letter of Advice to summarize the project, describe the drain classification and provide site specific recommendations on the actions which the municipality should take to avoid disrupting fish habitat at or downstream of the proposed project
- what is the benefit to municipalities?
 - municipalities with Letters of Advice for projects have the benefit of SCRCA and (usually) DFO advice and can improve aquatic habitats in their watercourses, avoid the negative effects of damaging fish habitat and the potential litigation, expense and negative publicity which could follow
 - projects requiring Authorizations are processed more rapidly when the SCRCA involvement provides supporting information to DFO

BD-10-108

Bilton - Jamieson

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the status report dated September 3, 2010, summarizing Fish Habitat Review undertaken on behalf of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans in 2010.”

CARRIED

A report on the Lambton County Larvicide Program was presented.

Lambton County Community Health Services has contracted the Authority again this year to continue undertaking the treatment of catch basins with larvicide pellets to control the threat of West Nile Virus for area residents.

- four post secondary students were hired this summer to conduct the work.
- three crews (4 students and 2 McKeough staff) began the first round of catch basin treatments on July 5th
- the first round of treatments saw 14,852 catch basins treated over a 10 day period

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- the second round of treatments began on August 3rd and was completed within 8 days for a total of 15,044 catch basins treated
- very few issues were encountered this year
- several landowners specifically watch for the crews to make these treatments annually
- 2011 applications will be based on available funding from the Province to support this work locally
- the total cost to the County of Lambton has not been calculated however that value is estimated to be approximately \$79,000
- a summary report is required and must be submitted to M.O.E. prior to December 1, 2010

BD-10-109**Napper - MacKenzie**

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated September 3, 2010 regarding the Lambton County Larvicide Program.”

CARRIED

A staff report on Conservation Services Programs was discussed.

- herbicide maintenance was undertaken on 192,000 at 108 sites in June and July .
- drain maintenance became a focus in August with 90 km of drains requiring treatment for either woody growth or phragmites and cattails.
- Invenergy-St. Clair Power
 - the new power plant on Petrolia Line in St. Clair Twp was planted with 2 acres of tree seedlings and 180 large stock 1.5m tall spruce and 5 meter tall maple and oak trees, compensating for woodlot removal under the County woodlot removal by-law.
 - a summer watering and vegetation control maintenance program is scheduled for this project to ensure survival of the large stock trees.
- Waste Management
 - planting activities continue in the poplar leachate control site and screening berms at the new Twin Creeks Landfill expansion site north of Watford. A total of approximately 8000 seedlings and 400 large stock trees were planted this spring.
 - more planting and maintenance work will continue throughout the summer by the hand planting/larvicide crew including a \$20,000 landscape feature at the corner of Zion Line and Nauvoo Road.
 - The construction of the final stage of the screening berm along Zion Line is expected to be completed by mid September which will require large stock tree planting activities to start in October.

BD-10-110**Miller - MacKinnon**

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated September 3, 2010, on Conservation Services Programs and works planned for the fall of 2010.”

CARRIED

A legal opinion and report regarding mobile homes on vacant lots in high erosion area on Bluepoint Drive was considered.

- background - the Board authorized staff to carry out the following:

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- seek a legal opinion on their risk associated with the implementation of a Conservation Authority Regulation policy for the Bluepoint High Erosion Area which would mirror and complement the municipal policies and based on the legal input and decision to proceed further seek legal advice on recommendations pertaining to implementation and enforcement in conjunction with the municipality (ie. Agreements on title, delegating enforcement to the municipality, etc.) at no extra cost to the Authority.
- the above action related to CA permitting “easily removeable” mobile type homes on existing vacant lots in high erosion areas in Bluepoint. This was requested as the municipality was investigating the possibility of permitting this option in their municipal planning documents
- legal opinion was received by Grant Inglis. It confirmed that the Conservation Authority cannot delegate its powers under the “Development, Interference with Wetlands & Alterations to Shorelines & Watercourses” Regulation, Ontario Regulation 171/06. It cannot delegate its powers via legal agreements either. In terms of the Authority’s risk in permitting temporary (mobile homes) in what the Authority’s opinion are hazard areas, the solicitor, provides the following:
 - no reference and therefore no difference between “temporary” vs “permanent”
 - doesn’t consider a dwelling “readily moveable” that is placed on a foundation and is “readily moveable”
 - difficulties via enforcement utilizing the Regulation. “Failure to have a review of the slope on a regular basis could expose the Authority and the Municipality to a grave risk of liability in the event of loss of property or loss of life”. Further, Authority would need to commence a Court process to enforce the removal of the structure.
 - utilizing a Temporary Use bylaw for a potential 20 year period has ceased to be temporary. Not intent of bylaw.
 - in summary, the Authority cannot delegate its powers and there is no distinction between permanent residences and “easily removeable” mobile type homes as described. Connecting to municipal services and foundation etc. suggests a permanence. There is no distinction as described in Ontario Regulation 171/06 or Conservation Authorities Act or Provincial Policy Statement.

BD-10-111**Burrell - Jamieson**

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges and accepts the legal opinion, dated September 8, 2010 and report, dated September 7, 2010 regarding mobile homes on vacant lots in the high erosion area on Bluepoint Drive.”

CARRIED

Regulations Activity Summaries dated June 30, July 31 and August 31, 2010 were reviewed.

BD-10-112**Phair - Giffen**

“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, 2010.”

CARRIED

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Application # 10466 was considered.

BD-10-113

Burrell - MacKinnon

“That the Board of Directors approves Application # 10466 under "Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses" (Ontario Regulation 171/06), and directs staff to issue a Notice of Decision with conditions as recommended within the Regulations Report dated September 3, 2010, accompanied by the required information.”

CARRIED

Planning Activity Summary Report for June, July and August 2010 was reviewed.

BD-10-114

Phair - McEachran

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority’s monthly Planning Activity Summary Reports for June, July and August, 2010.”

CARRIED

A status report on the Lake Huron Shoreline Management Plan was presented.

- background: Baird & Associates Coastal Engineers was awarded the project in May 2010 at a cost of \$79,134.61. A “new” Shoreline Management Plan for Lambton Shores shoreline and an update of SCRCA’s 1996 Shoreline Management Plan in Plympton-Wyoming, Sarnia and Point Edward is being undertaken.
- status –highlights
 - Nancy Bourgeois, planner for Sarnia, is now participating on the Steering Committee.
 - several Steering Committee meetings have been held.
 - a review and update to the existing recession rates in non-Lambton shores is on-going.
 - Open House/presentations on the draft findings by the coastal engineering firm took place on: July 21, 2010 @ Camlachie Community Centre 5-9 pm (Sarnia, Pt. Edward and Plympton-Wyoming area) and July 22 , 2010 @ Indian Hills Golf Club 5-9 pm (Lambton Shores area). An estimated 55 people attended in Camlachie and an estimated 50 people attended the Indian Hills session. Written and verbal comments have been received by the consultant and Conservation Authority. The consultant will be incorporating the comments into the report where applicable. Records will be kept of all correspondence. Authority staff have been busy responding to emails and questions, particularly in the Ipperwash Beach area. Many of the comments do not relate to the Natural flooding hazard as per the scope of the project, but are related more to water quality and recreational use/access.
 - the draft Lambton Shores hazard mapping is now on the SCRCA’s website with background documents.
- next steps
 - following the completion of the recession rate work and recommendation of the consultant in conjunction with staff, the Shoreline hazards will be separated into Management Areas ie. High hazard versus Medium hazard. This is for the purpose of the implementation section of the Shoreline Management Plan.

- it is being proposed that a 2nd Open House be held for Lambton Shores in order for the public to review the draft “Development Guidelines” based on the new hazard mapping.
- upload the draft Shoreline Management Plan development guidelines section and Management Area mapping to the website for comments (Sept.).
- upload the consolidated Shoreline Management Plan to the website for comments (Oct)
- present to councils and seek approval (Nov-Dec)

BD-10-115**Miller - McNeil**

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the status report on the Lake Huron Shoreline Management Plan dated September 7, 2010.”

CARRIED

A report on the St. Clair River AOC program and sediment project was explained.

- Contaminated Sediment Management Options Project Update
 - in response to the need for additional information about the river bottom, before deciding on best options for sediment remediation, the Authority sent two requests for proposals to several companies for river bottom studies in June and July of this year. Only one submission was received for each RFP. The submissions did not meet the technical committee’s requirements and the proposals were rejected. Based on an interview with several companies, the project schedule timing and technical requirements were an issue. An amended RFP was posted in early August. Three proposals were submitted and are under review.
 - approval from the Executive Committee or Board of Directors is required for selection of successful tender when they exceed \$25,000, as in this case. A motion to that effect is included in this report.
 - upon completion of the work this summer, one additional study of the river bottom will be completed next field season, in 2011.
 - the committee has approved a second extension to the ENVIRON contact to allow time to receive the field data from both studies and to incorporate it into their final report. The contract has been extended from October 29, 2010 to March 30 2012. A motion to that effect is also included in this report.
- other AOC related activities: a working group of the Canadian RAP Implementation Committee (CRIC) has revised delisting criteria for the St. Clair River AOC. The working group will be consulting with the CRIC and Bi-national Public Advisory Council (BPAC) in September prior to finalizing the criteria. Once finalized, the revised criteria will be used to measure performance against the actions taken and environmental conditions of the AOC to determine if the problems in the AOC have been addressed and the AOC can be delisted.

BD-10-116**Bilton - Burrell**

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated September 8, 2010 on the St. Clair River AOC program and sediment project, and that the General Manager or his designate be authorized to sign the Environment Canada (EC) and Ministry of the Environment (MOE) funding contribution agreements and award and sign the consulting agreement with the successful proponent for

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geophysical field work based on the Sediment Technical Team recommendation and further that the contract approvals will be subject to EC and MOE funding confirmations.”

CARRIED

BD-10-117

MacKenzie - Jamieson

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated September 16, 2010 on the St. Clair River AOC program and sediment project , and approves the extension of ENVIRON’s contract to March 30, 2012, as recommended by the Sediment Technical Team.”

CARRIED

A staff report on the status of the Mona Girgis’ appeal of Application #10459 was explained.

- the applicant had formally appealed the decision of the SCRCA Executive Committee to the Office of the Mining and Lands Commissioner.
- the Office of the Mining and Lands Commissioner had identified August 31, 2010 for a preliminary hearing via conference call. The intent of this preliminary hearing was to discuss a motion put forward by our lawyer (Grant Inglis) to have the appeal dismissed, and costs awarded to the Authority on the grounds that that the appeal by the applicant was “frivolous” and “vexatious”; in that the applicant was submitting essentially the same information as previously ruled on by a provincial hearing board (the Ontario Municipal Board) in 2001.
- on August 30, 2010, the applicant agreed to sign papers to have the appeal dismissed and to pay the Authority \$5000.00 to reimburse the Authority for a portion of costs incurred to date.

BD-10-118

MacKinnon - Napper

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the staff report dated September 3, 2010 and the correspondence from the Office of the Mining and Lands Commissioner dated August 31, 2010, regarding the status of the Mona Girgis’ appeal of Application # 10459.”

CARRIED

Authority revenue and expenditures to July 31, 2010, were reviewed.

BD-10-119

McEachran - Bilton

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the revenue and expenditure report to July 31, 2010, as it relates to the budget.”

CARRIED

May to August 2010 disbursements totaling \$2,134,456.07 were considered.

BD-10-120

Burrell - Jamieson

“That the Board of Directors approves the May to August 2010 disbursements as presented in the amount of \$2,134,456.07.”

CARRIED

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

BD-10-121

Jamieson - MacKenzie

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the status report on the 2010 general levy receipts to date.”

CARRIED

A report on group benefits was reviewed.

- Buffett Taylor & Associates presented the results of the 2010 Sun Life and Chartis Insurance renewals to the Benefits Committee for Conservation Ontario meeting held on July 21, 2010. 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 +8.2%. St. Clair Region Conservation Authority increase will be 5.6%.
- the renewal rates will be reflected on your September 2010 premium billing statements.
- while the above increase is significant, it should be noted that Sun’s initial renewal proposal called for +20.1% increase. The final negotiated positions reflect premium rates that should reasonably fund expected claim levels for the upcoming year.

A director asked if the Authorities could self insure as a Conservation Authority group. Another director stated that Conservation Authorities are not in the insurance business and do not have the knowledge needed to self insure. A director suggested the deductible could be raised to help offset the costs.

BD-10-122

Burrell - Giffen

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the results of the group benefits outlined in the renewal Memorandum effective September 1, 2010 and outlines an overall increase of premiums of approximately 5.6%.”

CARRIED

A communications report was presented:

- RBC Donation - the RBC Blue Water Project donated \$5,000 to the Conservation Authority to support communications initiatives related to Species at Risk. The funding will be used to support the printing of our annual species at risk newsletter that is sent to 66,000 households, a new display and for education programs on species at risk. This is get second \$5,000 donation received. An earlier donation supported a joint project with the Municipality of Strathroy-Caradoc and the Conservation Authority to upgrade the Strathroy River Trail. Three additional applications are pending.
- 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, \$3,000 was awarded across the St. Clair region this year.

- Allannah Vokes from Lambton Central Collegiate and Vocational Institute and Caitlyn Weir from Strathroy District Collegiate Institute were selected as the recipients of the 2010 A.W. Campbell Memorial Scholarships and each received \$1,000.
- Stipe Vicente Jelovcic from St. Patrick's High School won the \$500 Tony Stranak Conservation Scholarship.
- Allison Taziar from Lambton Kent Composite School won the \$500 Mary Jo Arnold Conservation Scholarship.
- 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 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.
- website upgrades - work is progressing, in cooperation with the Ministry of the Environment and Environment Canada, on expansion of the SCRCA website to include a section on the St. Clair River Area of Concern. This section of the website will provide background on the AOC and will be used to assist with the consultation work related to the Contaminated Sediment Study.
- upcoming events:
 - Trails Open - a Geocaching Adventure: Lorne C. Henderson Conservation Area, Sunday, September 12, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
 - explore L.C. Henderson Conservation Area with a “Geocaching Twist” Geocaching is a high-tech treasure hunt which uses a global positioning system (GPS) unit to locate a hidden cache (treasure). Walk along the trails of the 115 hectare wetlands/forested habitat and bring your GPS receiver to discover the excitement of Geocaching. A limited number of GPS receivers will be available to borrow. A laptop will be set up to upload the coordinates to your GPS
 - McKenzie and Blundy Memorial Forest Dedication: Wawanosh Wetlands Conservation Area, September 19, 2:00 pm – greetings made by Andy Bruziewicz
 - St. Clair Region Conservation Foundation Memorial Forest Dedication: Lorne C. Henderson Conservation Area, September 26, 2:00 pm – Speaker – Duncan Skinner, President, St. Clair Region Conservation Foundation and Steve Arnold
 - Chatham-Kent Lambton Children's Water Festival: C. M. Wilson Conservation Area, October 5 - 7

BD-10-123**Napper - Miller**

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the Communications Report, dated August 30, 2010, including RBC donation, conservation scholarships, conservation education flyer, website upgrades and upcoming events.”

CARRIED

A report on a potential program to raise funds through “Reducing Your Carbon Footprint” was explained.

- tree planting, wetland creation and forest management are key components within our Healthy Watershed Program. At the same time, issues related to climate change continue to be in the public spotlight. As noted below, there is a strong link between our conservation programs and efforts to reduce our carbon footprint. This provides an opportunity for the Conservation Authority to further promote these programs and to raise funds to enhance these initiatives in the region.
- background
 - climate change is one of the most important environmental issues of our time, requiring urgent action on the part of all governments and citizens. Climate change is a long-term shift in climate measured by changes in temperature, precipitation, winds, and other indicators. Climate change can involve both changes in average conditions and changes in variability, including, for example, changes in extreme conditions.
 - the potential impacts of climate change are far-reaching, affecting our economy, infrastructure, and health, the landscapes around us, and the wildlife that inhabit them. Climate change can be caused by both natural processes and human activities, in particular those that alter the chemical composition of the atmosphere. The build-up of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere is the primary cause for concern about climate change now and into the immediate future. Particularly important is the increase in atmospheric carbon dioxide, which is released through the combustion of fossil fuels. In Canada, 80 percent of total national greenhouse gas emissions are associated with the production or consumption of fossil fuels for energy purposes. Globally, Canada accounts for about two percent of total annual greenhouse gas emissions.
 - greenhouse gases in the atmosphere can be reduced by actually reducing our emissions and by trapping carbon in natural “carbon sinks” such as forests and wetlands. Trees, shrubs and other plants absorb carbon dioxide from the air and use it as their energy source, producing oxygen for us to breathe. Carbon is stored in the organic layers of forest floors and wetlands.
 - the most important solution to global warming is to reduce CO₂ emissions. We need to become Carbon Conscious.
 - while it is not possible to eliminate all CO₂ emissions immediately, in the interim we can help to reduce the impact of those emissions that are unavoidable by planting trees and other green initiatives. By supporting forest and wetland restoration, we can help to absorb some of the excess CO₂ in the atmosphere, as well as providing habitat for a wide range of wildlife.
- role of the Conservation Authority: much of the work of Conservation Authorities impact and is impacted by climate change. Locally, it is reported climate change will result in more severe weather causing more frequent and severe flooding and more frequent droughts. This will clearly have an impact on our flood damage reduction program and our low water response program. Much of our Healthy Watershed Program helps to mitigate these impacts. By planting trees, creating wetlands, protecting stream banks and creating natural spaces, we are increasing the resiliency of the watershed to withstand these impacts.
- role of the St. Clair Region Conservation Foundation: there may be a role for the St. Clair Region Conservation Foundation to help raise funds for reducing our carbon footprint. Many organizations are using the concept of “carbon offsets” to help individuals and companies understand how they can help. In simple terms, an individual or company can calculate how much carbon they produce, or how much carbon is produced by a particular activity. By undertaking projects that reduce the

amount of carbon produced or by supporting programs such as tree planting, that absorbs carbon, your carbon footprint is reduced. Individuals or groups can choose to donate funds to support planting trees, protecting forests, creating wetlands etc. to reduce their carbon footprint with the ultimate goal of becoming carbon neutral.

- Possible Program Outline - Title: Reduce Your Carbon Footprint – Become Carbon Conscious
 - Step 1: Estimating carbon emissions - the first step in reducing your carbon footprint is to contact the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority. We will help you calculate your carbon dioxide emissions from such activities as heating and cooling a house; driving a car; travelling on vacation etc. For a sample carbon emission calculator visit <http://additupontario.ca/en/index.php>
 - Step 2 : Decide how to reduce your carbon footprint. Once the Conservation Authority has helped you determine your emissions, we will be able to suggest the number of trees or other green projects needed to reduce your carbon footprint and the costs involved. Specifically, the funds could be used to support:
 - public and private land tree planting:
 - Provide tree subsidies to private landowners
 - Provide full cost for planting on public lands
 - support sustainable natural areas and conservation lands to ensure that they remain carbon sinks
 - support the creation of wetlands
 - donors can be encouraged to reduce their carbon footprint
 - of their normal household operations
 - of an event such as a wedding or conference
 - of their regular travel or vacation
 - of all or part of the regular operation of businesses, schools, service clubs, churches etc.
 - the Foundation would provide a charitable receipt for donations made.
- it is a recommendation from staff the SCRCA Board of Directors request the Foundation investigate this concept and if they are in agreement, develop a program that uses the concept of carbon offsets to raise funds that will be used to support tree planting, woodlot management, forest preservation and wetland creation.

BD-10-124

MacKenzie - Burrell

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated August 30, 2010 on a potential program to raise funds through “Reducing Your Carbon Footprint” to support tree planting, woodlot management, forest preservation and wetland creation and further that the Board requests the St. Clair Region Conservation Foundation develop such a program to support these programs in the St. Clair region.”

CARRIED

A report on the Thames, Sydenham and Region Source Protection Region works was reviewed.

- the proposed Assessment Report for the St. Clair Region Source Protection Area has been forwarded to the Ministry of Environment in June with no additional comments having been received.

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- review of the Assessment Report is anticipated to be completed near year end
- Authority staff are working to develop the final area of interest around each of the intakes – Intake Protection Zone 3 (IPZ-3) will be established for each of the intakes at Wallaceburg, Sarnia and Brights Grove
- IPZ-3 will generally be the complete area of draw for each of the intakes with a specific review for extreme events
- the flow model used to develop IPZ-2 is a proprietary model of Baird & Associates who were a subconsultant on the Technical Studies for the Wallaceburg, Sarnia and Petrolia Water Treatment Plants
- as that model is owned by Baird, and as they will also be acting as the consultant for similar works occurring in the Essex Region Source Protection Area – as works for both areas will be completed in tandem there will be cost efficiencies realized for both Regions – staff are recommending that the quotation of \$101,650.00 excluding HST be accepted as they are the only consultant with background and a tested model that can undertake this work which is to be costed 100% to Source Water Protection and this funding has been confirmed in the budget for Thames, Sydenham & Region Source Protection Region
- Ingrid Vanderschot has been hired as the Source Protection Policy Advisor and she will act as the principle author of the Source Protection Plans for each of the Authority’s to be completed by 2012
- Ingrid is working out of the SCRCA office, but will be spending some time at each of the Upper Thames and Lower Thames offices as well.

BD-10-125**McEachran - Giffen**

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the status report dated September 3, 2010 regarding Thames, Sydenham and Region Source Protection Region works including submission of the St. Clair Region Assessment Report and further approves the award of a contract for delineation of the final Intake Protection Zones for Wallaceburg, Sarnia and Petrolia intakes in the amount of \$101,650 excluding HST to Baird & Associates.”

CARRIED

The meeting went In Camera to discuss property issues.

BD-10-126**MacKenzie - Arnold**

“That the Board of Directors go in camera at 2:29 p.m. to discuss property issues with all staff remaining.”

CARRIED**BD-10-127****Bilton - Burrell**

“That the Board of Directors rise and report at 2:42 p.m.”

CARRIED

BD-10-128

Faas - Jamieson

“That the Board of Directors accepts the Stirling Property acquisition (Rondeau Bay) as a project and further requests the Foundation to accept this as a project on behalf of the Conservation Authority as it furthers the goals of acquiring significant natural areas for protection and management , all subject to satisfactory terms to the Foundation.”

CARRIED

BD-10-129

MacKenzie - Bilton

“That the meeting be adjourned.”



Andy Bruziewicz
Chairman

Ralph Coe
General Manager