

January 31, 2008

The Executive Committee of the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority met at the Administration Office in Strathroy, on the above date, at the hour of 12:30 p.m.

Directors Present: Norm Giffen, Chair
Steve Arnold, Vice Chair
Arthur Parkes
Bill Bilton
Andy Bruziewicz
Betty Ann MacKinnon
Tom McGregor
Lonny Napper

Also Present: Ralph Coe, General Manager
Marlene Dorrestyn, Administrative Executive Assistant
Brian McDougall, Director of Watershed Services
Jeff Lawrence, Environmental Planner/Regs Officer
Bill Dakin, Director of Financial Services

Present for Part of Meeting: Jeff Sawyer, BDO Dunwoody

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

EC-08-001

Bilton - MacKinnon

“That the Executive Committee minutes of the January 25, 2007, be approved as distributed.”

CARRIED

The General Manager’s Report was presented:

- Auditors: BDO Dunwoody have completed the 2007 audit and will present the draft financial statements at the Executive Committee for recommendation to the Board at the Annual General Meeting. The audit took place January 15-18. Jeff Sawyer of the audit firm will be at the meeting to present the report. The Conservation Authority had a successful year financially and with program delivery.
- 2008 Proposed Budget: the draft budget was forwarded to member municipalities in December. We have included the summary of the budget in today’s package. A detailed budget is available, with all changes based on carry forwards, etc and no impact on general levy from the 2008 draft budget. The amendments to the draft budget presented in November are in bold in the January 22, 2008 draft. A presentation will be made on January 23, 2008 to Middlesex Centre on the proposed budget. Lambton Shores has provided a letter of support for the budget subject to the approval of the full board. The budget is required to be passed prior to the end of February, however the provincial grants will be unknown until later in the year. This will not affect the municipal levy.
- Banking and auditors: we have had completed our fourth year with Libro as the Authority/Foundation banker. Staff are very satisfied with the service, reports etc. Auditors are appointed annually at the Annual General Meeting. The Authority requested 5 year proposals in 2004 and BDO was selected.

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- 2007 will complete year 4 of the 5 year proposal.
- Annual General Meeting: (NOTE Changes) February 21, 2008. Preparations are well underway. The Conservation Award recipients have been notified. The Annual Report is near completion and ready for the printer: Change of Venue: Location: Best Western, Point Edward, Venetian Blvd., Date: February 21, 2008, Time: 1:00 pm. Format will remain the same, however the venue is changed to allow for a greater attendance. Key Note Speaker: Dr. James Bruce, Co-Chair, Public Interest Advisory Group, International Upper Great Lakes Study.
- Board Membership: the three directors whose terms were up for renewal, have been re-appointed, therefore there will be no changes to the Board membership for 2008.
- Board Members, Committee appointments: All members were forwarded information regarding their interest in sitting on committees for 2008. The Nominating Committee will review their requests on January 31, 2008 and will make the recommendations to the Board of Directors at the Annual General Meeting.
- Source Protection Planning: The full Source Protection Board has met twice, December and January. Meeting locations will be the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority board room. Meetings scheduled 6 months in advance and posted on the website www.sourcewaterprotection.on.ca. Their next meeting will be February 8, 2008. Details of their agenda are available on the website.
- Employment Programs: the Authority has submitted or will be submitting applications for the following programs:
 - Job Creation Partnership (Fed) for 12 positions at a value of \$ 276,454.00 (expect response in early February for an April start if successful)
 - Summer Experience (Prov) 3 positions at a value of \$5700.00
 - Summer Career Placement (Fed) - 2 positions at a value of \$3014.00
 - Summer Job Service (Wage subsidy \$2/hr) -9 positions through Lambton College.
 We expect a response on the applications in March/April. These programs are extremely important for all Authority operations from technical support, campgrounds, tree planting, and planning.
 - Minimum Wage will be increased to \$8.75 per hour effective March 1, 2008. Currently the rate is \$8.00 per hour. (some variations may apply with short term summer students).
- Coldstream Conservation Area: The insurance company has authorized the lawyers to appeal the decision of the courts on the 2005 accident. We began a process of clarifying and re-drafting the lease agreement of Coldstream CA with Middlesex Centre. We are currently completing this at staff level to ensure we have all terms correct.
- MOE/ RAP Implementation Co-ordinator: for the fourth year we have signed the agreement to administer the funding for the Implementation Co-ordinator for the St. Clair River Remedial Action Plan, Mr. Stu Thornley. This is funded 100% through MOE and the Authority receives an administration fee for this service. We continue to expand opportunities for look for opportunities to expand our presence and work in the RAP area.
- Staff secondment: notice sent to staff. Effective January 6 to August 31, 2008
 - A special watershed planning project in the St. Clair River Area of Concern has provided an opportunity for cross training and secondments within the Planning and Research Dept. To carry out the special project we will have arranged for various staff to assume or share duties and will advertise for a short term contract resource technician. (posted on our website and Conservation Ontario Website) to assist the department until August 31, 2008. We trust the planning project to be undertaken in the AOC will strengthen the Authority's position,

knowledge and involvement in the St. Clair AOC and the importance of this area to the health of our watersheds and region.

- Patty Hayman will assume the position as " AOC Watershed Plan Writer" for the St. Clair AOC, Patty will be developing watershed plans for numerous watersheds in the AOC along with continuing work on the Shell project, Lake St. Clair Management Plan and continuing to assist with some department functions and reviews.
- Chris Durand will assume the position of Acting Director of Planning and Research/GIS Specialist and will carry out the day to day supervision for the department and administrative duties. Some of Chris duties from planning will be assumed by the new contract position during this 8 month project. Jeff Lawrence will assume additional responsibilities in in the Planning Dept while maintaining the Regulations duties and Generic Regs contract. Trisha, Muriel and Heather will also work with the team to meet the needs and collectively the Dept will ensure the municipalities, our partners and customer service is maintained at a high standard and this is a seamless change in service delivery.
- Voting Procedure: Matching and Non-Matching levy: This procedure has not changed. A copy of the procedure will be forwarded to the Board of Directors with the Annual General Meeting Board package.

EC-08-002

Napper - Burrell

“That the Executive Committee acknowledges the General Manager’s report, dated January 21, 2008.”

CARRIED

A report regarding the Authority’s management of properties owned by Lambton County was reviewed:

- for more than 10 years, the Authority and the County of Lambton have had a very successful partnership in the maintenance and development of the Perch Creek Habitat Management Area and the Mathaville Habitat Management Area
- based on agreed upon annual budgets, the Authority has provided basic maintenance of each of the areas, as well as development and surfacing of trails, creation of ponds and parking areas, as well as tree planting and maintenance
- at this time, the County is looking to renew contracts for maintenance of these properties, as well as add additional properties for Authority management
- it is anticipated that 5 or 6 properties will be included for Authority management under a single master agreement (similar to the agreements regarding the management of Perch Creek & Marthaville)
- management plans (10 year operational plans) will be developed or updated for each of the properties and these will act as appendices to the master agreement
- these management plans will provide direction to the Authority for the management of each property, as well as providing a guide for the costs associated with the required management including opportunities for revenues directly from the management or from potential grant sources
- the County has requested that the staff develop a Master Agreement for review and revision by County staff by January 25, 2008

EC-07-003**Burrell - Bruziewicz**

“That the Executive Committee acknowledges the report date January 22, 2008 regarding the Authority’s management of properties owned by Lambton County and agree in principal to the development of an agreement which will continue and expand the Authority’s management of County land holdings.”

CARRIED

A Conservation Areas Update on what is new for 2008, was discussed.

- Warwick Conservation Area: 32 campsites in the main campground will be upgraded with new 30 amp hydro (Phase II); 9 new campsites to be serviced with hydro, water, roadway and picnic tables; main campground washrooms to new counter tops and sinks installed in the women’s washrooms
- L.C. Henderson Conservation Area: roadway and water service to be installed in the Tower view camping area; hydro to be upgraded to the workshop; waterline to be extended to the lakeside pavilion and group camping area
- A.W. Campbell Conservation Area: flooring and baseboards to be installed in the visitor centre; washroom partitions to be installed in the pool washrooms; 14 existing campsites to be serviced with hydro, water and picnic tables; approximately 60 tree tops to be tender for removal as a result of the 2007 logging operations
- Wawanosh Wetlands Conservation Area: staff will be working with Ducks Unlimited to have the existing water control structure operational for the 2008 season (this regulates the water level in the south pond and will eliminate flooding of the trails)
- Highland Glen Conservation Area: the boat ramp and harbour will be dredged to improve boat access to Lake Huron
- Shetland Conservation Area: the annual Sydenham Canoe Race will be held on Sunday, April 20th and will finish at the Conservation Area

EC-08-004**Bruziewicz - McGregor**

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the Conservation Areas Update, dated January 22, 2008.”

CARRIED

A staff report outlining Vehicle and Equipment proposed purchases was considered.

EC-08-005**Parkes - MacKinnon**

“That the Board of Directors approve the vehicle and equipment purchases as outlined in the Vehicle and Equipment purchase report dated January 22, 2008.”

CARRIED

A staff report on flood conditions and Great Lakes Water levels was presented.

- Level 1 Low Water Advisory Removed: across the St. Clair region upwards of 84 mm of rain and 55 cm of snow fell during December. Due to this rainfall and snow melt, streamflows returned to normal levels and the Level 1 Low Water Advisory for the watersheds in the region was removed on January 4, 2008.

- Flood Event January 7th - January 14th
 - a ten day period of above normal temperatures and rain combined with snowmelt from a larger than normal December snowpack, resulted in moderate flooding on both branches of the Sydenham River system
 - high temperatures beginning on January 5th melted the snowpack from December and water levels start to respond on January 7th. The additional rain overnight on January 8th and early morning on January 9th caused water levels to rise further until they peak on January 10th. With no additional water put into the system water levels recede back to pre-event levels.
 - Stanley Line, Pretty Road and Waterworks Road in St. Clair Township and Black Ash Road in Enniskillen Township were all closed due to flooding
 - 6 flood advisories issued - no residential flooding was reported
- Flood Threat
 - with the above normal temperatures that we have experienced in early January, we are virtually beginning winter again
 - frost was able to get into the ground in most areas before the snow which began to fall on January 21st
 - long term forecast is for above normal precipitation and normal temperatures through the spring - when combined with below average lake levels, some localized flooding can be expected to occur in the spring however residential flooding is not anticipated
- January 2008 Flood Event (Rain, Water Level & Temperature) – East Sydenham River at Strathroy
 - precipitation in December was over 125% of normal across the watershed
 - rainfall totals for January are above long terms averages already with snowfall lagging behind due to warm temperatures. As a result river water levels are above normal values for this time of year but continue to recede from earlier levels this month.
- Great Lakes Water Levels
 - water levels on the Great Lakes rose against the normal trend for December of 2007 but are expected to continue their seasonal decline in January.

EC-08-006

Bilton - Burrell

“That the Executive Committee acknowledges the report dated January 22, 2008 on the Great Lakes water levels and current watershed conditions.”

CARRIED

A staff report on Healthy Watersheds Programs was reviewed.

- Sydenham River Habitat Stewardship Program (Environment Canada funded)
 - staff continue to work with landowners on the 27 projects were approved for grants for 2007-2008
 - two projects may have to be phased to complete the proposed works
 - several projects are complete and grants have been provided to landowners
 - additional projects are expected to be completed this month - some are weather dependent
 - remaining projects will be paid for in March and completed in spring

- total grants to be provided to landowners for assistance in undertaking 27 best management practices projects is \$83,800 to support projects with a total capital cost of over \$145,000 and total cost of over \$300,000
- projects will be completed or services paid for prior to March 31, 2007
- Cow Creek Riparian Buffer Project (various funding agencies)
 - staff continue to work with Ministry of Natural Resources staff from Aylmer regarding grants for the installation of riparian (tree and grass) buffers along Cow Creek and it's tributaries in the City of Sarnia and the Town of Plympton-Wyoming
 - a flyer was forwarded to targeted landowners along Cow Creek to advise them of the project and several landowners contact the Authority with interest in the project
 - opportunities to expand this project into the Perch Creek watershed are being investigated
- St. Clair Region Woodlands (Ministry of Natural Resources Species At Risk)
 - staff are undertaking and inventory of woody species at risk on publicly owned lands in preparation for creation of plans to protect and enhance their habitat in the St. Clair region watersheds
 - educational programs have been and are being created, additions are being made to the Authority website, presentations are being drafted to be presented to community and interest groups if requested
 - contract staff have been hired to undertake this work under the guidance of Authority staff
 - all aspects of the projects are to be completed by the end of February
- New Applications
 - 3 new applications are planned to be submitted for MNR SAR funding for the:
 - Sydenham River Habitat Stewardship Program - further funding to provide support for further landowner best management practices projects
 - Phase II of the St. Clair Region Woodland Inventory - collection of data on vascular plants, animals and birds in St. Clair region woodlands
 - St. Clair Region Reptiles Survey - collecting information on reptiles across the watershed

EC-08-007**Bruzewicz - Napper**

“That the Executive Committee acknowledges the report dated January 22, 2008, on Healthy Watersheds programs across the watershed.”

CARRIED

A staff report regarding Water & Erosion Control Infrastructure Capital Projects and Studies was discussed.

- 2005 - 2006 WECEI Projects
 - Point Edward - ECP Shore Protection Revitalization - Project complete (potential historic signage installation)
 - Weir #2 (LCH) - Decommissioning / Revitalization Plan - Phase II of the Plan is underway including a review of the environmental impacts and impacts on Conservation Area activities
 - McKeough Dam - Hazard Tree Removal - Phase II - Partially complete with works undertaken in the late fall
 - ARDA Dykes - Hazard Tree Removal - Phase II - Partially complete with works undertaken last fall

- 2006 - 2007 WECI Projects
 - Guthrie Park - Shore Protection Revitalization - Sediment / soil sampling underway
 - LC Henderson CA Pond - Outfall Erosion Control - Complete
 - Campbell House Dam - Outfall Erosion Control - Complete
 - McKeough Dam - Drop Structure Downstream Erosion Control - Replacement of and addition of rip rap on the downstream side of the drop structure
 - Sarnia Seaway Centre Erosion Control Project - Flank Protection Phase I - Detailing design options to be reviewed with the municipality - incorporate issues of walkway, law office, former CN Lands project, etc.
- 2007 - 2008 WECI Projects
 - Guthrie Park - Shore Protection Revitalization Phase I - Construction works planned to commence in March
 - McKeough Dam - Watercourse Obstruction Removal - Removal of watercourse obstructions which may impact water control structures
 - Mooretown Centennial Park - Flank Protection - Design and construct flank protection at the south end of Mooretown Centennial Park
 - ARDA / Running Creek Dykes - Erosion Repair / Dyke Reshaping / Vegetation Control - Undertake vegetation control / minor earthworks and erosion control on the dykes
 - McKeough Dam - Pump Replacement - Replacement of emergency / operation pump
 - Sarnia Seaway Centre Erosion Control Project - Flank Protection Phase II - Completion of flank protection at the south end of the Sarnia Seaway Centre

EC-08-008

Bilton - MacKinnon

“That the Executive Committee acknowledges the report dated January 22, 2008, on Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure projects.”

CARRIED

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

- Notice of Filing was advertised on November 19, 2007 in the Sarnia Observer and forwarded to all of the Project Contact List including the adjacent landowners and the commenting and approval agencies for a project of this nature.
- the Project Plan was made available for public review at both the St. Clair Township municipal offices in Mooretown and the Authority administrative office in Strathroy for 30 days as required by the Conservation Authorities Class Environmental Assessment.
- comments on the Project Plan were limited in number with some approval agencies simply directing us to provide completed application forms.
- the Ministry of the Environment (MOE) provided the most significant comments:
 - concerns regarding potentially contaminated sediments and soils at the project site; requiring site specific testing, and appropriate site controls and disposal.
 - requesting further information regarding fish habitat in the near shore area of the site
 - requesting further correspondence with potential commenting agencies regarding First Nations' land claims

- a subsequent meeting with MOE representatives provided additional detail regarding their concerns most specifically the requirement of a sediment / soil sampling and testing program to outline what contaminants (if any) can be found in the soil and sediment of the site and in what areas of the site
- Pollutech EnviroQuatics Limited was identified as the local experts in this area and a sediment / soil sampling plan and quotation was provided (Terraprobe - a similar firm based in a around Toronto - confirmed that the quotation was competitive)
- through discussions with St. Clair Township, the decision was made to proceed with the sediment / soil sampling and testing while drafting the Tender Documents for the project and upon receipt of the sampling results discuss and determine next steps
- options may include: design changes to reduce or eliminate removal or disturbance of river sediments, target construction in areas where contamination is limited or non-existent and potential actions to obtain support funding from parties responsible for contaminants or previous landowners
- sediment / soil sampling is to be completed this week and test results should be available by February 15th
- tender documents are being drafted and will be provided for review late next week

EC-08-009

Burrell - Arnold

“That the Executive Committee acknowledges the report dated January 22, 2008, on the Guthrie Park Shore Protection Revitalization Project and further authorizes the Chairman and General Manager to award the tender of the preferred contractor and to sign the appropriate documents.”

CARRIED

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

- draft designs were presented to Sarnia City Council on December 17, 2007
- the final draft of the Project Plan was reviewed with senior City Staff on January 21, 2008 (as well as a review of the proposed design with the tenants of the Office Building on the waterfront)
- comments are being collected and will be forwarded to Shoreplan Engineering for editing with the intention of advertising the Notice of Filing as early as January 28, 2008 in the Sarnia Observer
- the Notice of Filing will also be forwarded to adjacent landowners as well as commenting and approval agencies for review and comment
- Great Lakes Sustainability Fund has confirmed funding to support the project and additional information has been forwarded to the Ontario Great Lakes Renewal Foundation in support of the application currently under review
- senior City Staff have requested that Tender Documents be developed as soon as possible with the intention of tendering the work as soon as possible or as soon as the public review is completed and approvals are in place

EC-08-010

MacKinnon - Burrell

“That the Executive Committee acknowledges the report dated January 22, 2008, on the Mission Park (former Sarnia CN Lands) Shore Protection Revitalization Project and further authorizes the Chairman and General Manager to award the tender of the preferred contractor and to sign the appropriate documents.”

CARRIED

Mr. Jeff Sawyer of BDO Dunwoody presented a report on the 2007 draft financial statements. The Authority had another successful year financially and operationally.

EC-08-011

Arnold - Parkes

That the Executive Committee acknowledges the report from the Authority’s auditors, BDO Dunwoody, on the 2007 draft financial statements and the Statement of Continuity of Reserves and Reserve Funds and year end finances and further approves the year end adjustments, reserves and reserve adjustments as outlined in the schedule dated December 31, 2007 and recommends the Board of Directors approval of the 2007 Audited Financial Statements.”

CARRIED

A staff report on a proposed Conservation Services Workshop and Cold Storage was discussed.

- the building design has been drafted by Dave Beselaere. Final revisions have been made and copies of the design have been requested for permits and tender packages.
- the permit application was submitted by January 21, 2008 to the Municipality of Strathroy – Caradoc.
- a meeting with Hydro One has been set for Thursday January 24th to discuss the location of the current hydro lines and relocation. A transformer pole will be installed to service the building. Hydro One will be preparing a layout report for the building.
- once the building permit has been approved, public tenders will be locally advertised and made available.
- the intention is to keep the tendering period short to permit work to begin in February. It is expected that the building will be ready to store seedlings this spring.
- this project was in the approved budget for 2007 and the draft budget for 2008 with the funding for the construction coming from the Conservation Services Reserve, however surplus funding in Conservation Services in 2007 has been carried forward to 2008 to cover the anticipated cost of the structure and this change is reflected in the revised budget being presented at the Executive Committee meeting on January 31

BD-08-012

Bilton - Napper

“That the Executive Committee acknowledges the report dated January 22, 2008, on the Conservation Services Workshop and Cold Storage to be constructed at Clark Wright Conservation Area and further authorizes the Chairman and General Manager to award the tender of the preferred contractor and to sign the appropriate documents.”

CARRIED

Minutes of the January 21, 2008 Regulations Committee meetings were reviewed.

EC-08-013

MacKinnon - Bilton

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges and concurs with the Interim Regulations Committee Report on "Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses" Regulations (Ontario Regulation 171/06), dated January 21, 2008.”

CARRIED

A Planning Activity Summary Report for December 2007 was reviewed.

EC-08-014

Bruzewicz - McGregor

“That the Executive Committee acknowledges the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority’s monthly Planning Activity Summary Reports for December 2007.”

CARRIED

An update on the award of the Generic Regulation engineered mapping component project was explained.

- a request for proposals were forwarded to three firms with the necessary expertise. They were:
 - Earth Tech
 - Riggs Engineering
 - B.M. Ross and Associates
- proposals were received by Riggs Engineering and Earth Tech. The most significant differences in the two proposals were i) estimated costs to complete the project and ii) SCRCA experience with the firm. Riggs Engineering provided a proposal with an estimated cost of \$8,000.00 less than Earth Tech. Riggs Engineering has provided SCRCA with good service in the past and we have a good working relationship with this firm. Earth Tech has yet to be retained by SCRCA.
- an evaluation of the proposals were submitted to the General Manager and the Chairman and as per the September motion, the contract was awarded to Riggs Engineering for \$59,975.00. It is noted that this amount is below the engineering component budget of \$60,000.00. An agreement for professional consulting services was subsequently signed.
- on December 13, 2007, Riggs Engineering met with staff to review the Terms of Reference and obtain necessary technical documentation from the Conservation Authority. Information provided included:
 - SCRCA Hydrology Study – Technical manual
 - GIS section – meander belt axis, drainage area breakdown, stream layer, DTM for full watershed, georeferenced file with flow information, 2006 photography, general land use information related to runoff/floodplain characteristics, survey cross section information
 - other hydrology information from all SCRCA reports ie. McKeough Dillon reports, etc. (Wherever possible, digital information is provided)
- we expect to receive the estimated engineered floodline from Riggs Engineering by midsummer.

EC-08-015

Burrell - Parkes

“That the Executive Committee acknowledges the update on the award of the Generic Regulation engineered mapping component project to Riggs Engineering for \$59,975.00 and project progress to date.”

CARRIED

December 2007 disbursements were reviewed.

EC-08-016

Bilton - Napper

“That the Executive Committee approves the December 2007 disbursements as presented in the amount of \$34,179.58.”

CARRIED

The General Manager advised that all 2007 municipal general levy payments had been received by year end.

EC-08-017

Burrell - McGregor

“That the Executive Committee acknowledges that all 2007 municipal general levy has been received.”

CARRIED

The draft 2008 budget was submitted to member municipalities in November 2007.

- changes to 2008 Budget since November 20067 included:
 - WECI Projects - original budget \$1,217,000 - revised budget \$1,065,761 - carry forward decreased by \$80,240 due to parts of project started in 2007 and City of Sarnia Special Levy increased by \$39,000 due to discussion with the city payment now coming from city's 2008 budget instead of 2007 budget.
 - Source Protection - original budget \$522,500 - revised budget \$505,135 - carry forward decreased by \$17,365 due to more work completed in December 2007 in conjunction with Intake Study
 - Capital Development - original budget \$114,850 - revised budget \$204,433 - addition of the Visitor's Centre at Warwick \$40,000 requested funding from the foundation. Completion of new Conservation Workshop at Clark Wright \$70,000 funded by 2007 surplus. We were able to carry forward Campground surpluses to fund 2008 capital development thus reducing the reserve transfer by \$92,457.
 - Property Management - original budget \$238,100 - \$238,100 - carry forward increased by \$1,188 due to reduced expense in Agreement Forest account in 2007
 - Aquatic Systems - original budget \$10,000 - revised budget \$34,466 - carry forward increased to \$24,466 due additional funds in 2007
 - Generic Regs - original budget \$71,000 - revised budget \$71,011 - carry forward increased by \$11 due to reduced expense in 2007

- Watershed Report Card - original budget \$5,000 - revised budget \$9,323 - carry forward increased by \$4,323 due to funds provided by Environment Canada
- St. Clair River Restoration - original budget \$25,000 - revised budget \$37,000 - carry forward increased by \$12,000 due to matching money needed for 2008 grant
- Mission Park - original budget \$200,000 - revised budget \$175,000 - carry forward decreased to zero due to some of the initial planning work commencing in December 2007
- St. Clair MOE Management - original budget \$195,000 - revised budget \$382,307 - grant increased by \$130,000, and Carry forward increased by \$53,307 due to year end funds provided for projects by MOE
- Conservation Services/ Healthy Watersheds - original budget \$425,500 - revised budget \$463,123 - grant increased by \$28,200, and Carry forward increased by \$9,423 due additional funding for Provincial Species at risk and continuation of McKeough Reforestation project
- Administration - original budget \$491,750 - revised budget \$476,234 - decrease carry forward by \$15,516 due to completion of office renovation in December 2007
- there was no impact on the proposed general levy.

EC-08-018

Arnold - Bruziewicz

“That the Executive Committee acknowledges the changes to the 2008 Draft Budget, and recommends to the Board of Directors the amended 2008 preliminary forecast budget, dated January 23, 2008 of \$6,169,731 with a municipal general levy of \$479,550 .”

CARRIED

A staff report on the plans for the Annual General Meeting were reviewed.

- an opportunity arose to invite Dr. James Bruce, Co-Chair of the Public Interest Advisory Group, International Upper Great Lakes Study, to our Annual Meeting to be a keynote speaker. Over the last year, several questions have been asked by Board Members about Lake Levels. Dr. Bruce is an expert on this and spoke at the A.D. Latornell Conservation Conference last November. Staff attending the presentation said he was an excellent speaker and very knowledgeable on the topic. The title of his presentation will be *"Why are levels of Lakes Superior, Huron, and St. Clair so low and what can be done about them? - Questions being addressed by the IJC's International Upper Great Lakes Study"*
- Dr. Bruce is world-renowned meteorologist and was the only representative from Canada in the presentation ceremony for the Nobel Peace Prize. The Norwegian Nobel Committee chose to honour the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and former Vice President Al Gore for their efforts to build up and disseminate greater knowledge about man-made climate change and to lay the foundations for the measures that are needed to counteract such change. A full biography is below.
- it is suggested we hold our Annual Meeting at the Best Western Guildwood Inn in Point Edward to allow for additional guests who may wish to attend to hear Dr. Bruce. The International Joint Commission is also promoting our annual meeting with their stakeholder group.

EC-08- 019

Bruzewicz - Parkes

“That the Executive Committee acknowledges the change in location for the Annual General Meeting to Point Edward and further acknowledges the change in meeting format to accommodate Dr. James Bruce, as our keynote speaker.”

CARRIED

The meeting went In Camera to discuss personnel issues.

EC-08-020

MacKinnon - Bilton

“That the Board of Directors go in camera at 1:44 p.m. to discuss personnel issues with the General Manager remaining.”

CARRIED

EC-08-021

Parkes - Burrell

“That the Board of Directors rise and report at 1:54 p.m.

CARRIED

EC-08-022

Burrell - Napper

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the information on the Family Day Public Holiday and the Conservation Authority’s current personnel policy on “statutory holidays and Authority approved holidays” and further amends the policy to include Family Day as an additional employer paid public holiday with no other changes to the policy and subject to employees meeting employment standards act for eligibility.”

CARRIED

EC-08-023

Napper - McGregor

“That the meeting be adjourned.”

Norm Giffen
Chairman

Ralph Coe
General Manager