

February 21, 2013

The 2013 Annual General Meeting of the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority was held on the above date, at the Polish Hall in Sarnia, at the hour of 10:00 a.m.

Directors Present: Steve Arnold, Bill Bilton, David Boushy, Diane Brewer, Andy Bruziewicz, Terry Burrell, Elizabeth Davis-Dagg, Joe Faas, Norm Giffen, Anne Marie Gillis, Rod Glen, Helen Havlik, Larry MacKenzie, Betty Ann MacKinnon, Kevin Marriott, Don McCallum, Jon McEachran, Netty McEwen, Tom McGregor, Steve Miller, Frank Nemcek, Ben Phay

Directors Absent: Tony Bruinink, Dan MacMillan

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Andy Bruziewicz, who on behalf of the directors and staff of the Conservation Authority welcomed everyone to the 2013 annual meeting. He advised that we had a very successful year in 2012 and encouraged everyone to take a look at our Annual Report. Andy reminisced about the many changes over his 14 years with the Authority.

Mr. Bruziewicz introduced the special guests. Pat Davidson, M.P. and Todd Case, Warden of Lambton County brought greetings.

**BD-13-001**

**Havlik - Marriott**

**“That the agenda for the Annual General Meeting be adopted.”**

**CARRIED**

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

**BD-13-002**

**Glen - McEachran**

**“That the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting held December 13, 2012, be approved as distributed.”**

**CARRIED**

**BD-13-003**

**Miller - MacKenzie**

**“That the Board of Directors adopts the minutes of the Executive Committee of February 7, 2013.”**

**CARRIED**

A staff report regarding updates on business arising from the December 13, 2012, Board of Director's meeting was reviewed.

**BD-13-004**

**Bilton - Davis-Dagg**

**“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the updates on business arising from the December 13, 2012 Board of Director's meeting.”**

**CARRIED**

*Board of Directors Annual Meeting, February 21, 2013*

Rick Battson, Jessica Van Zwol and Claude LaFrance made presentations.

**BD-13-005**

**McEachran - MacKinnon**

**“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the presentations outlining the highlights of 2012, Healthy Lake Huron and the St. Clair River Area of Concern.”**

**CARRIED**

Mr. Ken Williams of Woods Pearson Associates, presented the 2012 Audited Financial Statements.

**BD-13-006**

**McEachran - Faas**

**“That the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority accepts the recommendation of the Executive Committee and report from the Authority’s auditors, Woods, Pearson & Associates Chartered Accountants LLP, and further approve the 2012 Audited Financial Statements.”**

**CARRIED**

Four Conservation Awards were presented this year:

- Friends of the Warwick Conservation Area.
  - the Friends of Warwick is a volunteer group of campers that operate special events and raises money for improvements for the Warwick Conservation Area.
  - through their efforts, the Authority has been able to install additional playground equipment and furnish the visitor centre.
  - this dedicated group of volunteers also use the funds they raise to support a wide variety of programs for visitors to the Conservation Area.
  - the Friends operate about 15 different activities each weekend as well as larger events such as an Antique Car Show, a live Elvis Night, Fishing Derby, and Halloween in the Summer.
  - the Friends of Warwick are unique in our region, taking volunteering to new level. They have become a vital part of the “Warwick Experience”.
- Heather Wright is a freelance journalist in Sarnia- Lambton. She has been covering municipal politics for over two decades.
  - in addition to her focus on municipal politics, Heather has provided excellent coverage of environmental issues and has often written about programs related to the Conservation Authority, ranging in scope from our conservation education program, to construction of wetlands at Bowen’s Creek and to our tree planting efforts along Highway 402.
  - Heather has also written on the impacts of Great Lake Water levels and the challenges that face us as a result of Climate Change.
- the Sarnia Environmental Advisory Committee is a group of volunteers that help advise the City of Sarnia on a wide array of environmental issues, as well as promoting stewardship and conservation of the environment throughout the City.
  - the Committee supported the work of the Community Round Table Environment Committee to educate the public about the damaging effects of vehicle idling;
  - they worked collaboratively with BSI Canada to invite Nicole Foss to Sarnia as a guest speaker. Nicole is an internationally recognized Canadian speaker with a law degree and expertise in finance, energy and water resources and they brain-stormed educational ideas for waste reduction and recycling.

- the Sarnia Environmental Advisory Committee is an excellent example of community involvement and volunteerism.
- McKenzie and Blundy Funeral Home.
  - last year's dedication service, held on September 16, marked the 25th anniversary of planting trees in memory of loved ones through the McKenzie and Blundy Funeral Home.
  - in 1987 the Authority had a vision - a vision that was shared by Grant and Cheryl McKenzie that we could create a forest that would be a place for people to remember – a place of peace – a place of beauty – a place of life.
  - since then, over 6,000 trees have been dedicated in memory at the Wawanosh Wetlands Conservation Area and the Perch Creek Habitat Management Area.
  - each year, about 1,000 people attend a dedication service run by the funeral home.
  - the support of Grant and Cheryl and later of Katherine Scimmi and her staff of the memorial forest program has helped to make this program not only a success for conservation but a meaningful remembrance for thousands of people

**BD-13-007**

**Arnold - Burrell**

**“That the Board of Directors congratulates the 2012 Conservation Award Winners and thanks them for their contributions to conservation.”**

**CARRIED**

Norm Giffen, Vice Chair, assisted the chair by presenting this year's service awards.

10 years of service:

Don Skinner, AWC Assistant Superintendent  
 Glenn Baxter, Warwick Assistant Superintendent  
 Tim Payne, Forest Management Specialist

15 years of service:

Norm Giffen, representing Strathroy-Caradoc  
 Terry Barrie, LCH Superintendent

25 years of service:

Sharon Nethercott, Conservation Education Coordinator

**BD-13-008**

**McEachran - Burrell**

**“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the service awards presented to the directors and staff and further that they be thanked for their years of dedicated service.”**

**CARRIED**

Four directors are leaving the Board at this time. Diane Brewer, representing Southwest Middlesex/Newbury, Andy Bruziewicz, representing Sarnia, Jon McEachran representing Sarnia and Dan McMillan, representing Middlesex Centre. Lonny Napper, representing Plympton-Wyoming and Jeff Wesley, representing Chatham-Kent also left through the year. Their experience and dedication will certainly be missed.

The meeting then continued when Chair, Andy Bruziewicz, welcomed new members, Anne Marie Gillis, representing City of Sarnia; David Boushy, representing the City of Sarnia, Don McCallum, representing Southwest Middlesex and Newbury and Ben Phay, representing Middlesex Centre to the 2013 Board. The meeting continued with 2013 business.

**BD-13-009**

**MacKinnon - Glen**

**“That Ted Butler be appointed chairperson for the election of the 2013 Chairman and Vice Chairman.”**

**CARRIED**

**BD-13-010**

**MacKenzie - Gillis**

**“That Beverly Climie and Kris Lee be appointed scrutineers in the event of an election.”**

**CARRIED**

The positions of Chair and Vice Chair were declared vacant and nominations were called for the office of Chairman for 2013.

Steve Miller nominated Steve Arnold for the position of chair.

Rod Glen nominated Norm Giffen for the position of chair.

**BD-13-011**

**Faas - McGregor**

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

**CARRIED**

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

Steve Arnold was declared Chair of the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority for 2013.

Ted Butler called for nominations for the office of Vice Chair for 2013.

Anne Marie Gillis nominated Terry Burrell for the position of Vice Chair.

Rod Glen nominated Norm Giffen for the position of Vice Chair.

**BD-13-012**

**MacKenzie - Davis-Dagg**

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

**CARRIED**

Terry Burrell and Norm Giffen both advised that they would stand as Vice Chair. Both nominees spoke and an election was held.

Terry Burrell was declared Vice Chair of the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority for 2013.

**BD-13-013**

**Glen - Marriott**

**“That the ballots be destroyed.”**

**CARRIED**

Steve Arnold assumed the chair for the remainder of the meeting.

Bill Bilton, Chair of the Nominating Committee brought forth the Nominating Committee report for 2013.

With the election of Steve Arnold as Chair and Terry Burrell as Vice Chair, an additional two people are required on the Low Water and Executive Committees.

Anne Marie Gillis and Netty McEwen volunteered to sit on the Low Water Committee.

Norm Giffen nominated Rod Glen to the Executive Committee

Joe Faas nominated Larry MacKenzie to the Executive Committee

Terry Burrell nominated Steve Miller to the Executive Committee

**BD-13-014**

**Burrell - Faas**

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

**CARRIED**

Larry MacKenzie declined the nomination for a position on the Executive Committee. Rod Glen and Steve Miller were added to the Executive Committee.

**BD-13-015**

**Bilton - Davis-Dagg**

**“That the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority adopts the 2013 Nominating Committee's Report with the changes as noted.”**

**CARRIED**

**BD-13-016**

**Havlik - Faas**

**“That the 2013 Executive Committee for the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority be: Steve Arnold, Chairman; Terry Burrell, Vice Chairman; Rod Glen, Tony Bruinink, Betty Ann MacKinnon, Steve Miller, Joe Faas, Norm Giffen, Bilton Bilton.”**

**CARRIED**

The 2013 budget was considered. Two votes on the budget were required. The first vote for non-matching levy utilized a weighted vote. A recorded vote based on weighting on the non-matching general levy was held.

**BD-13-017**

**Marriott - MacKenzie**

**“That the Board of Directors approves the recommendation of the Executive Committee for a 2013 budget of \$5,724,666 with a non-matching general levy of \$370,665 with all member municipalities deemed as benefitting and further that the levy be apportioned using the modified CVA of each municipality within the Authority’s area of jurisdiction.”**

**CARRIED**

The final vote represented 100% in favour based on the total CVA in attendance.

The matching general levy was also considered.

**BD-13-018**

**MacKinnon - McGregor**

**“That the Board of Directors approves the recommendation of the Executive Committee for a 2013 budget of \$5,724,666 with a matching general levy of \$261,250 with all member municipalities deemed as benefitting and further that the levy be apportioned using the modified CVA of each municipality within the Authority’s area of jurisdiction.”**

**CARRIED**

The 2013 borrowing bylaw was considered.

**BD-13-019**

**Davis-Dagg - MacKenzie**

**“That the Authority Chairman or the Vice Chairman and the General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer or Director of Financial Services be authorized to borrow from the Libro Financial Group, Strathroy for the general operations and capital program of the Authority, a sum not to exceed \$941,915 to be repaid from grants received from the Province of Ontario, Government of Canada, levies assessed the member municipalities and general revenue.”**

**CARRIED**

The appointment of the Authority auditor for 2013 was discussed.

**BD-13-020**

**Miller - Gillis**

**“That Woods, Pearson & Associates Chartered Accountants LLP be appointed auditors for the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority for 2013.”**

**CARRIED**

The 2013 appointments to Conservation Ontario were considered.

**BD-13-021**

**Glen - MacKinnon**

**“That the Authority's 2013 representative to Conservation Ontario will be the Authority Chair, that the Vice Chair will be the first alternate and that the General Manager be the second alternate.”**

**CARRIED**

The General Manager's Report was presented:

- the Authority had a very successful 2012 both in completion of projects and programs and finance, as had been outlined in the presentations as well as the 2012 Audit.
- a draft of the 2013 Authority Budget was presented to the Board in September and an amended version was presented in November. The proposed budget was forwarded to municipalities for comment in November. Updates regarding comments were provided to the Board of Directors in December and to the Executive Committee earlier this month. To date Authority staff have received only positive comments regarding the budget. Two municipalities have already paid their general and special project levies for 2013.
- 4 new members have been appointed to the board by their member municipalities
  - Ben Phay has been appointed by Middlesex Centre replacing Dan McMillan
  - Anne Marie Gillis has been appointed by Sarnia replacing Andy Bruziewicz
  - David Boushy has been appointed by Sarnia replacing Jon McEachern
  - Don McCallum has been appointed by Southwest Middlesex replacing Diane Brewer.
- staff will be hosting an orientation for new members on March 26<sup>th</sup> – invitations are included in your package – although the orientation is targeted toward new members, if any current members wish to attend, please contact Marlene to confirm attendance
- the Outstanding Farmer Award was presented at the Lambton Soil & Crop Improvement (LSCIA) Annual meeting on January 11<sup>th</sup> – Board Member Frank Nemcek assisted in the presentation of the award (which is a joint award presented by the Authority and the LSCIA) – the award was presented to Ron MacDougall who farms in the Oil Springs area
- voting procedures for matching and non-matching levy remains unchanged from previous years - a copy of the procedure will be forwarded to the Board of Directors with the Annual General Meeting package in order to ensure that all members understand and are comfortable with the procedure
- staff continue to update the Finance and Administration Manual (Policies, Procedures and Regulations) – this update is required to meet current legislation, incorporate Board approved items, correct errors and update policies – the intention is to present a draft of the updated manual to the Board in April with the final version being reviewed in June

**BD-13-022**

**McEwen - Faas**

**“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the General Manager’s report dated February 12, 2013.”**

**CARRIED**

A staff report regarding the draft agreement with Middlesex Stewardship Council was discussed.

- the lawyer comments have not been received to date.

Director's Concerns:

- asked if Middlesex Stewardship Council was incorporated - not incorporated.
- liability concern

**BD-13-023**

**Havlik - Bilton**

**“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated February 21, 2013 outlining solicitor’s comments provided regarding the draft agreement with Middlesex Stewardship Council and further approves the operating agreement between the organizations, subject to the recommended changes.”**

**BD-13-024**

**Burrell - Gillis**

**“That motion BD-13-023 be tabled.”**

**CARRIED**

A monthly Watershed Services Department activity summary was reviewed.

- watershed precipitation: precipitation numbers improved into January 2013 with most stations reporting 50% more precipitation in the form of both rain and snow than the average with Sarnia receiving three times the expected amount of snow and rain combination. Much of this increase was attributed to two major events during the month January. The three month regional averages improved from 85.9 % in the October to December period up to 96.1% of the expected averages mostly on the strength of the January numbers. Similarly six month and twelve month numbers are up to 98.5% and 86.1% respectively. Significant rain was received during the second week of January with an average of 40mm to 50mm over a period of three days and existing snowpack was significantly reduced during the event. In addition a second event near the end of January brought another 30mm to 40mm to the watershed. Should this precipitation trend continue into the spring, significant recharge will likely result in improved water levels into the summer month for 2013.
- streamflows: while overall the month of December remained consistent with lower than normal flow patterns resulting from reduced precipitation amounts throughout 2012; conditions improved significantly into 2013. Accumulated snow conditions across the watershed were totally depleted in mid-January by a significant thaw resulting in a flood event. A second event occurred at the end of January creating even higher flow conditions and again reducing snowpack significantly. Flows have since reverted to pre-event levels into February however a major snowstorm in the first week of the month provided extensive snow cover. Periodic thaws are anticipated to continue potentially reducing the chances of a major thaw with much of the accumulated ice cover on the watercourses being flushed out by the January events. Levels at Wallaceburg responded to both events as expected and have returned to normal conditions as well. Generally, streamflow predictions moving into February will remain normal for the season when compared with long term statistics for the month. As noted in the graphs, with the exception on the January 12<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> event, most rain and snow melt events have been easily accommodated by the watercourses.
- Flood Threat: two flood events occurred in January resulting in flood bulletins being issued for both events. Overbank conditions were experienced in several flood prone areas of the watershed creating high water into floodplain regions as well as closing several rural roads such as Pretty, Fairweather and Waterworks Roads. Much of the accumulated ice was moved out of the rivers and no significant ice jams were created allowing the watershed to drain over several days during the last week of January. The current status report illustrates the SCRCA flood management system and ability to provide real time analysis of conditions during any event. Data from hydrometric all stations is accessed continuously during potential flood events and provides an overview of the rise/fall rates as well as the percentage of the channel that is currently full. In

addition the system generates guidelines for areas of potential flood conditions which are further verified through field observations as required. Flood notices are then generated based on the current conditions and anticipated trends. The January 30th, 2013 event report indicated over bank conditions at some rural locations and several Flood Watch bulletins were then issued based on this report information.

- as always, thaw conditions together with any sudden fluctuations in temperature or extreme storm systems may produce large amounts of precipitation over a short period of time. While conditions have stabilized since the January events, continued care should be taken during such weather events where local conditions may change without warning (i.e. low lying areas and adjacent roadways or underpasses, drainage ditches and culverts). Ice conditions are currently minimal but may have an impact flow conditions into late February and early March as cold weather continues. These conditions will be monitored to assess potential flood situations as we move toward the spring breakup period. Advisories will continue to be provided as watershed conditions dictate.
- Weather Forecast (as reported by Weather network, Environment Canada)
  - January: milder temperatures toward the end month and into February with average precipitation. Likely lower snow accumulation as a result of milder temperatures
  - Winter: temperatures will be slightly above normal with lower than average precipitation moving into February. Snow conditions are likely to be similar to last year with some lake effect snowstorms in the upper parts of the watershed and minimal accumulations in the southern regions
- Great Lakes Current Levels (January 2013): the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports a preliminary new record low water level for Lake Michigan-Huron for the second month in a row. The new record low of 175.57 meters or 576.02 feet is not only the lowest January monthly average water level ever recorded, but also the lowest monthly average ever recorded for any month over the official period of record for Great Lakes water levels, which extends back to 1918. The Corps latest forecasts indicate a strong likelihood for continued record lows on Lake Michigan-Huron over the next several months. Water levels on the remaining Great Lakes are expected to remain below their respective long-term average water levels, but above record lows. Low water levels will continue to impact on Great Lakes shipping by restricting the capacity of ships to load full cargos during low water conditions.

#### **BD-13-025**

##### **Davis-Dagg - Marriott**

**“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated January 31, 2013, regarding current watershed conditions and Great Lakes water levels.”**

#### **CARRIED**

A staff report regarding Cathcart Park Shore Protection Revitalization was discussed.

- on January 29, 2013 - Township and Authority staff met on site with the design engineer, site supervisor and representatives of the contractor (Ontario Construction)
- we reviewed the site and the contractor has fenced the construction site.
- culvert installation is ongoing to allow temporary access to the shoreline.
- approximately 70 m of shoreline work will be completed in this phase.
- 25 working days have been provided for completion of the project under the contract (a working day is any day during which the conditions permit the contractor to be able to undertake work to greater than 60 percent of capacity).
- Shoreplan Engineering is providing supervision for the project and site meeting will be held

- weekly.
- construction of phase II work is expected to be completed by mid-March 2013.

**BD-13-026**

**Nemcek - Miller**

**“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated February 12, 2013, regarding Cathcart Park Shore Protection Revitalization and the schedule for completion of the project.”**

**CARRIED**

The Regulations Activity Reports dated December 31, 2012 and January 31, 2013, were reviewed.

Tom McGregor declared a pecuniary interest and did not participate in the discussion and did not vote on this resolution.

**BD-13-027**

**Bilton - Faas**

**“That the Board of Directors acknowledges and concurs with the Regulations Activity Summary Reports on "Development, Interference with Wetlands & Alterations to Shorelines & Watercourses" Regulations (Ontario Regulation 171/06), dated December 31, 2012 and January 31, 2013.”**

**CARRIED**

There was concern expressed from St. Clair Township members on the timing of the next Board meeting and the need to expedite Eastern Power’s development proposal review under Application # 10715. The next Board meeting is scheduled for April and it appeared staff could not issue a staff approval of the proposed cut and fill on Government Drain 10. The status of the application and the severity of issues were discussed. From a preliminary perspective, impacts were not deemed to be significant. The members of St. Clair Township requested a motion to allow the General Manager to approve the application pending the receipt of necessary information and CA technical staff satisfaction in order that a delay to April would not be necessary, if staff were satisfied prior to this date.

Director’s concerns:

- this is a huge project - is it fair to delegate to the General Manager?
- there is much controversy about the project and the people involved - would like to have more information
- have been working on this project since August - not a new project. If we delay what is the project’s impact?
- planned ground breaking is for April 1<sup>st</sup>
- staff dealing with project - have confidence in staff
- is the application complete?
- has company caused any issues?

Tom McGregor declared a pecuniary interest and did not participate in the discussion and did not vote on this resolution.

**BD-13-028**

**Miller - Bilton**

**“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the status report of Application 10715 by Eastern Energy Power Project in the January 31, 2013 St. Clair Region Conservation Authority’s Regulations report and further delegates approval of Application # 10715 to the General Manager upon review and receipt of critical information to ensure the control of flooding and erosion is not negatively impacted.”**

**CARRIED Anne Marie Gillis was opposed.**

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

**BD-13-029**

**Marriott - MacKenzie**

**“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority’s monthly Planning Activity Summary Reports for January 2013.”**

**CARRIED**

A schedule of Special Events was reviewed:

- A.W. Campbell Maple Syrup Festival, March 16 - 17, 9:00 - 4:30  
A.W. Campbell Conservation Area
- Sydenham River Canoe Race, April 21, Registration 10:00 - 11:00 (Mossie Line at the Sydenham River) Race ends at the Shetland Conservation Area
- Earth Week, April 22 – 26, Strathroy Tree Planting Day - tba, Strathroy Conservation Area
- Strathroy Water Trail Paddle Day, May 25, 9:00 - 3:00,  
Centennial Park, Strathroy
- Denning Bros. Funeral Home Memorial Forest Dedication, May 26, 2:00  
Centennial Park, Strathroy
- Member’s Project Tour, June 20
- Geocaching Event, tba. Lorne C. Henderson Conservation Area,
- McKenzie and Blundy Memorial Forest Dedication, September 15, 2:00 Wawanosh Wetlands Conservation Area
- Foundation Memorial Forest Dedication, September 22, 2:00  
Lorne C. Henderson Conservation Area
- Chatham-Kent Children’s Water Festival date tba

**BD-13-030**

**Nemcek - MacKenzie**

**“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the schedule of Special Events outlined in the attached flyers.”**

**CARRIED**

**BD-13-031**

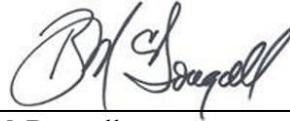
**MacKenzie - Bilton**

**“That the meeting be adjourned.”**



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Steve Arnold  
Chairman



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Brian McDougall  
General Manager