



Board of Directors Annual Meeting

Date: February 19, 2015

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Location: Courtright Community Centre, Courtright

Agenda

1. Chair's Remarks
2. Introduction of Guests
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Declaration of Pecuniary Interests
5. Minutes
6. Presentations
7. 2014 Audited Financial Statements
8. Conservation Awards
9. Service Awards

Break to seat new directors

2015 Business

10. Election of Officers
 - Chairman
 - Vice Chairman
11. Nominating Committee Report
12. 2015 Budget & Levy
13. Authorization to Borrow
14. 2015 Appointments
 - 2015 Auditors
 - Conservation Ontario Representatives
15. Regular Business
16. New Business
17. Adjournment

Lunch to follow

St. Clair Region Conservation Authority
Annual General Meeting Proposed Resolutions

3. Moved by: _____ Seconded by: _____
That the agenda for the Annual General Meeting be adopted.
4. It is 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.
5. (i) Moved by: _____ Seconded by: _____
That the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting held December 11, 2014, be approved as distributed.
5. (ii) Moved by: _____ Seconded by: _____
That the minutes of the Source Protection Authority Board of Directors meeting held December 11, 2014, be approved as distributed.
5. (iii) Moved by: _____ Seconded by: _____
That the minutes of the Executive Committee meeting held February 5, 2015, be approved as distributed.
6. (i) Moved by: _____ Seconded by: _____
That the Board of Directors acknowledges the presentations highlighting the restoration efforts at Bowen's Creek Conservation Lands and progress on the St. Clair River Remedial Action Plan.
- 7.(i) Moved by: _____ Seconded by: _____
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 2014 Audited Financial Statements.
8. (i) Moved by: _____ Seconded by: _____
That the Board of Directors congratulates the 2014 Conservation Award Winners and thanks them for their contributions to conservation.
9. (i) Moved by: _____ Seconded by: _____
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.

2015 Business

10. (i) Moved by: _____ Seconded by: _____
That Bill Bilton be appointed chairperson for the election of the 2015 Chairman and Vice Chairman.

10. (ii) Moved by: _____ Seconded by: _____
That _____ and _____ be appointed scrutineer's in the event of an election.

10. (iii) Moved by: _____ Seconded by: _____
That nominations for the position of Chairman be closed.

10. (iv) Moved by: _____ Seconded by: _____
That nominations for the position of Vice Chairman be closed.

11. (i) Moved by: _____ Seconded by: _____
That the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority adopts the 2015 Nominating Committee's Report.

11. (ii) Moved by: _____ Seconded by: _____
That the 2015 Executive Committee for the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority be:
_____, Chairman
_____, Vice Chairman

12. (i) Moved by: _____ Seconded by: _____
That the Board of Directors approves the recommendation of the Executive Committee that the 2015 budget of \$6,080,141 with a non-matching general levy of \$391,455 with all member municipalities deemed as benefitting and further that the levy be apportioned using the Modified Current Value Assessment of each Municipality within the Authority's area of jurisdiction.

12. (ii) Moved by: _____ Seconded by: _____
That the Board of Directors approves the 2014 budget of \$6,080,141 with a matching general levy of \$310,000 with all member municipalities deemed as benefitting and further that the levy be apportioned using the Modified Current Value Assessment of each municipality within the Authority's area of jurisdiction.

13. Moved by: Seconded by:
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 Credit Union, Strathroy for the general operations and capital program of the Authority, a sum not to exceed \$1,011,455 to be repaid from grants received from the Province of Ontario, Government of Canada, levies assessed the member municipalities and general revenue.
- 14.(i) Moved by: Seconded by:
That Woods, Pearson & Associates Chartered Accountants LLP be appointed auditors for the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority for 2015.
14. (ii) Moved by: Seconded by:
That the Authority's 2015 representative to Conservation Ontario will be the Authority Chair, the Vice Chair will be the first alternate and the General Manager be the second alternate.
15. (i) Moved by: Seconded by:
That the Board of Directors acknowledges the General Manager's report dated February 6, 2015.
15. (ii) Moved by: Seconded by:
That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated February 5, 2015, regarding current watershed conditions and Great Lakes water levels.
15. (iii) Moved by: Seconded by:
That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated February 6, 2015 on the ongoing Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure projects across the watershed.
15. (iv) Moved by: Seconded by:
That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated February 6, 2015, regarding potential Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure projects that will be submitted to the Ministry of Natural Resources for funding in 2015 - 16.
15. (v) Moved by: Seconded by:
That the Board of Directors acknowledges and concurs with the Regulations Activity Summary Report dated January 31, 2015 on "Development, Interference with Wetlands & Alterations to Shorelines & Watercourses" Regulations (Ontario Regulation 171/06) for the months November 2014, December 2014 and January 2015.
15. (vi) Moved by: Seconded by:
That the Board of Directors acknowledges and concurs with the municipal drain November and December 2014 activity report associated with the Drainage Act and Conservation Authorities Act Protocol (DART).

15. (vii) Moved by: Seconded by:
That the Board of Directors acknowledges the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority's monthly Planning Activity Summary Reports for November 2014, December 2014 and January 2015.
15. (viii) Moved by: Seconded by:
That the Board of Directors acknowledges the schedule of Special Events outlined in the attached flyer.
- 15.(ix) Moved by: Seconded by:
That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated February 17, 2015 regarding the tenders received for the reconstruction of the entrance roadway to the lake side on the Warwick Conservation Area and further that the tender of _____ at a cost of \$ _____ be accepted and that the Chair and General Manager are authorized to sign contracts for the project.
- 15.(x) Moved by: Seconded by:
That the Board of Directors acknowledges the status report dated February 6, 2015, regarding Lambton Shores – Healthy Lake Huron program, including the outreach events with the Lambton Soil and Crop Association and the Lambton Grain Farmers of Ontario.
- 15.(xi) Moved by: Seconded by:
That the Board of Directors acknowledges the status report February 6, 2015, regarding the conclusion of the Healthy Sydenham Headwaters funding from Ontario Trillium Foundation and an overview of habitat projects from the past three years.
15. (xii) Moved by: Seconded by:
That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated February 6, 2015, on the 2015 Surface Water Quality and Aquatic Biomonitoring Programs, which help track changes in water quality over time in watercourses and improve our knowledge of local aquatic resources.
15. (xiii) Moved by: Seconded by:
That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated February 6, 2015 regarding McKeough Property Management Plans that include short and long-recommendations to improve agricultural sustainability, water quality, and wildlife habitat on the properties.
15. (xiv) Moved by: Seconded by:
That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated February 6, 2015 regarding the variety of interpretive signs installed throughout the St. Clair Region.

15. (xv) Moved by: Seconded by:
That the Board of Directors acknowledges the minutes of the September 25, 2014
Joint Health and Safety Committee meeting.

17. Moved by: Seconded by:
That the meeting be adjourned.

December 11, 2014

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 approximately 10:00 a.m.

Present: Steve Arnold, Chair; Terry Burrell, Vice Chair; Bill Bilton, David Boushy, Tony Bruinink, Joe Faas, Norm Giffen, Betty Ann MacKinnon, Kevin Marriott, Don McCallum, John McCharles, Netty McEwen, Steve Miller, Gerry Rupke

Absent: Anne Gilbert, Anne Marie Gillis, Rod Glen, Frank Nemcek, Ben Phay, John Romlewski

Also Present: Source Protection Committee Chair, Bob Bedggood and Project Manager, Chris Tasker

Also Present for all or part of Meeting: Brian McDougall, General Manager; Rick Battson, Director of Communication; Patty Hayman, Director of Planning; Dallas Cundick, Environmental Planner/Regs Officer; Muriel Andreae, Manager of Biology; Jessica Van Zwol, Healthy Watershed Specialist; Melissa Deisley, Regulations Officer; Dan Skinner, Resource Technician; Tracy Prince, Director of Finance; Marlene Dorrestyn, Administrative Assistant

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced new director, Gerry Rupke from Lambton Shores. He thanked everyone for their hard work this past year and wished everyone a Merry Christmas, take time and reflect and have a safe and prosperous new year. He 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-14-187

Bruinink - Giffen

“That the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting, held November 13, 2014, be approved as distributed.”

CARRIED

The General Manager’s Report was presented:

- Staffing changes
 - Sarah Kellestine joined the Authority last month as our Payroll / Accounting Clerk
 - Sarah comes to us from the event management and services industry and is already exercising her customer service experience for us
 - Donna Strang has accepted the role of St. Clair River Remedial Action Plan Coordinator
 - Donna has spent the last three years as the St. Clair River RAP Technical Writer with the Authority and her skills and experience will ensure that we continue to work towards delisting the St. Clair River as an Area of Concern
- Board Meeting Date Change
 - Southwest Middlesex is hosting the Annual Middlesex Municipal Day on April 16th, 2015 – this was also the scheduled date for the April Board of Directors Meeting
 - several members and staff attend this event annually and Board Member Don McCallum, on behalf of the host municipality, has asked that we reschedule our April Board Meeting if possible
 - staff recommend that the April Board Meeting be rescheduled to April 23, 2015

- Authority boundaries and levy in Strathroy-Caradoc
 - most Conservation Authorities' boundaries have been established by watershed boundaries
 - in some cases, lines of best fit, 'common sense', definable boundaries were used in other cases, the boundaries did not make sense for municipalities and therefore, other arrangements were made
 - each of the above noted cases occur within Strathroy-Caradoc
 - the boundary between the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority and the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority, due to the size of the entire Thames River watershed, was defined as the outlet of Dingman Creek into the Thames River, near Delaware
 - the result was a small percentage (and a small percent of assessed value) of Strathroy-Caradoc falling within the boundary of the Upper Thames River CA
 - it is my understanding that discussion between the municipality and the two Thames River CAs resulted in the Lower Thames CA assuming responsibility for the area of Strathroy-Caradoc that fell within the Upper Thames CA boundary and Strathroy-Caradoc paid levy and had membership for that combined area with the Lower Thames CA
 - the SCRCA operating regimen has been based on this understanding and was believed to be confirmed in the modified current value assessments provided annually by the Province
 - recent discussions have brought this understanding into question
 - a meeting is scheduled between the 3 Authorities later this month to review the situation and updates will be provided
- Accessibility Training
 - Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 (AODA) has various requirements for organizations that must be completed within specific timelines in order for the organizations to be compliant
 - the Authority has completed its requirements for 2014, except for the provision of training regarding AODA for the Board of Directors
 - at the conclusion of the formal meeting we will view 6 short training videos, which combined with an understanding of the Authority's Accessibility Plan will complete the required training and will allow the Board Members to sign off in acknowledgement that they have received the required training
 - all Board Members must receive this training for the Authority to be compliant at the submission of its year end reporting – therefore members that are unable to attend the meeting are asked to complete this training online and return the signed Introductory Training document to the Authority's office on or before December 18th – reminders will be provided to members who are absent from the December Board meeting
- Ipperwash Beach – removal of barriers
 - on August 14, 2014, D. Cundick, Regulations Officer met M. Monkhouse, KSPFN Public Works Manager and A. Price, KSPFN met at West Ipperwash beach to discuss Best Management Practices for beach management. Information was sent from Lake Huron Coastal Conservation regarding best practices for beach and dune management.
 - site inspection by P. Hayman and D. Cundick on December 5, 2014: removal of barricades. No evidence of beach/dune grading. Vehicular access of the beach was

occurring December 5, 2014 by the general public as well as First Nations. Photos taken.

Directors' concerns:

- need the whole correct story
- concerns about dune removal
- set up meeting with Chief of Council and Authority staff

BD-14-188

Boushy - Rupke

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the General Manager’s report, dated December 1, 2014.”

CARRIED

BD-14-189

Marriott - McCharles

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the works that have taken place to date on Ipperwash Beach between West Ipperwash Road and Army Camp Road, which consists of the removal of the barricades and that staff be directed to draft a letter, signed by the Authority Chair, to KSPFN Chief Tom Bressette outlining the environmental sensitivity of the dune system which is a component of the dynamic beach and further confirm the dynamic beach plus allowances is regulated by the Authority, Ontario Regulation 171/06 “Development, Interference with Wetlands & Alterations to Shorelines & Watercourses”, which means the Authority can grant permission if in its opinion the control of flooding, erosion, dynamic beaches, pollution or the conservation of land will not be affected by the development* and further that SCRCA’s Shoreline Management Plan, undertaken by Baird and Associates, Coastal Engineers, 2011 describes the role of the Ipperwash dune system in controlling the nature of the dynamic beach and flooding and erosion.”

CARRIED

Definition of “Development” under the CA Act – *Development* means:

- the construction, reconstruction, erection or placing of a building or structure of any kind,
- any change to a building or structure that would have the effect of altering the use or potential use of the building or structure, increasing the size of the building or structure or increasing the number of dwelling units in the building or structure,
- site grading, or
- the temporary or permanent placing, dumping or removal of material, originating on the site or elsewhere.

A verbal update regarding the December 8th, Conservation Ontario Council meeting was provided.

BD-14-190

MacKinnon - Bilton

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the verbal report from the Conservation Ontario Council meeting of December 8, 2014.”

CARRIED

A report on the business arising from the last meeting was discussed.

- Tender Opening for Phase IV Cathcart Park
 - concern that St. Clair Township had not reviewed details of tender.
 - *St. Clair Township approved acceptance of Wicks Excavating*
- Fish and Mussel surveys
 - asked if signs showing species that live in the river could be placed in Dresden, Petrolia, etc., for the public awareness
 - check with local businesses to find funding opportunities.
 - *staff working on public awareness signage and project funding.*
- Outdoor Education:
 - concerns that not many schools from Chatham-Kent attended our programs.
 - request that the Chatham-Kent school numbers be shown in next education report.

BD-14-191

Faas - Rupke

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the updates on business arising from the November 13, 2014 meeting.”

CARRIED

A Conservation Lands Update was reviewed:

- Conservation Lands:
 - C.J. McEwen Conservation Area (Plympton-Wyoming): 1,000 dune grass plugs have been planted on the beach dune; when established, they provide natural erosion protection for the dunes
 - Bridgeview Conservation Area (Petrolia): railings on the dam have been removed (to eliminate ice damage to the railings during spring floods) and they will be reinstalled by mid-April
 - Strathroy Conservation Areas (Strathroy-Caradoc):
 - Prigioniero property – the property line has been surveyed and boundary markers have been installed
 - staff have inspected and removed trees which obstruct the Sydenham River along the Strathroy Water Trail
 - Warwick Conservation Area (Warwick):
 - drainage works have been completed within a section of the main campground; this will improve the drainage on a number of campsites
 - a room in the workshop has been renovated to facilitate a staff lunch room (Health & Safety concerns)
- Tree Removal:
 - due to the emerald ash borer, staff have been busy removing dead ash trees from along our trails, around our campsites and in the day use areas; in most cases we recycle the wood and sell it as firewood in our campgrounds
 - over 75 stumps have been removed at the AW Campbell and Warwick Conservation Areas
- Tree Planting: over 100 hardwood and 92 wildlife shrubs and conifer trees have been planted in our conservation areas.

- other: staff have completed picnic table inventories for each of our 3 regional campgrounds; these inventories will assist in the planning of short and long term needs; it is estimated that we have a picnic table value worth more than \$ 150,000.00
- McKeough Lands:
 - the residential tenants on property 39 have moved out and we have begun removing some of the smaller outbuildings
 - demolition permits are being obtained for the homes and larger outbuildings on both property 38 and 39; demolition of these buildings is planned for early 2015

BD-14-192

Miller - Burrell

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the Conservation Lands Update, dated November 25, 2014 concerning maintenance and development on Conservation Areas, and McKeough Upstream Lands.”

CARRIED

A staff report regarding the pavilion at the Charles J. McEwen Conservation Area was explained.

- Background:
 - the Conservation Area is located at 4318 Lakeshore Rd in the Municipality of Plympton-Wyoming
 - it is 5.2 hectares (12 acres) in size and has beach access, washroom facilities, day use area and a parking lot.
 - the pavilion was constructed in the mid 1970’s and over the years it has been rented for family reunions and wedding ceremonies
 - pavilion is a wood pole type, measuring 20 ft. x 40 ft. in size; it has a concrete pad and asphalt shingles
 - on average the pavilion has been rented between 2 and 4 times per year at a rate of \$60.00 per day; the majority of recent rentals have been for wedding ceremonies where they are attracted primarily to the grounds
- Present Condition:
 - the asphalt shingles are becoming worn and require replacement
 - the concrete pad has heaved in a number of locations, resulting in many larger cracks and an uneven surface; staff have temporarily patched these sections but would require replacement
 - many of the main 6 x 6 wood posts which provide the structure for the pavilion have become rotten both above and below the ground
- Staff Recommendation:
 - with the condition of the roof, concrete pad and wood supports the pavilion has become a public safety concern
 - the cost to remove and rebuild a similar structure would be approximately \$ 40,000.00; from a financial perspective this would not be practical
 - recommend for public safety to remove the pavilion and replace it with a much smaller gazebo type structure which would meet the demand for wedding ceremonies and family pictures

- cost to construct a similar structure as one built at Warwick C.A., with landscaping is approximately \$ 4,000.00

BD-14-193

Bruinink – McCallum

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the staff report, dated November 25, 2014, regarding the pavilion at the Charles J. McEwen Conservation Area and approves the recommendation to demolish the pavilion and replace it with a smaller gazebo style structure.”

CARRIED

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

- Highlights:
 - significant event at the end of November
 - river levels returning to seasonal
 - no significant snowpack conditions
 - lake levels continue to improve over 2013
- Watershed Precipitation and Streamflow Conditions
 - watershed flow conditions remained at or near seasonal levels during the first part of November. Precipitation in the form of rain was also lower than normal by 30% in most areas with the exception of a major event in the third week of the month which initially brought extensive snowfall to the upper areas of the watershed. This was followed by a warmer trend with extensive rainfall increasing river levels. Overall November mean temperatures were lower at 1.3C, slightly below the previous years of 2.4C (2013) and 3.1C (2012). Flows were subsequently impacted significantly resulting in a Watershed Conditions Statement being issued for the last week of the month while the snowpack and additional precipitation moved slowly through the system. However, the regional precipitation was still lower than the average by 30% for the month. Long term averages for the three, six and twelve month averages remain at close to 100% of the anticipated precipitation.
- Flood Threat
 - flows recorded at most stations remained consistently low in most locations at or below 10 cubic metres per second (cms) throughout the month but increased as a response to the end of the month event with peak flows increasing to between 50 and 80cms. Extensive wind conditions also prevailed with gusts in excess of 80km/hour restricting outflow at Wallaceburg. With the combination of wind and higher river flows, water levels rose significantly by 40cm at the confluence of the east and north branches in less than a day. These conditions have since stabilized. With a reduction in snowpack and colder temperatures into December it is anticipated that any new precipitation will likely fall and accumulate as snow and may reduce the impact of weather events moving into the winter months. Seasonal snow surveys have commenced effective November 15th and river ice conditions will be monitored into early 2015 to provide a comprehensive watershed conditions assessment in anticipation of the spring freshet period.
 - these changing conditions are carefully monitored to assess potential localized flood situations as we move into the winter months.
- Weather Forecast:
 - December - sunny with slightly below average temperatures and precipitation for the month

- Great Lakes Levels
 - the monthly comparison for October 2014 lake levels in continued to improve significantly compared to 2013 in both Lake St. Clair and Lake Huron with an increases of 34cm and 51cm respectively. Lake Huron levels also continue to exceed the 10 year long term average although remain below the average for the entire period of record. Great lakes ice cover will also continue to influence snow conditions in the northern areas of the watershed. Currently ice is beginning to form in smaller bays in Lake Huron and as lake temperatures fall these conditions will migrate to other areas potentially covering the lake again in 2014/2015 as was the case last winter. The reduction in open water in the lakes tends to reduce the impact of lake effect snow conditions later in the season. Ongoing ice monitoring will be included as part of this report during the winter season.

BD-14-194

Bilton - Miller

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated November 28, 2014 on the current watershed conditions and Great Lakes water levels.”

CARRIED

A staff report on Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure Projects

- third round review of WEIC applications have been completed by a committee of provincial and Conservation Authority staff representatives. The following 5 projects were approved for 2014-2015.

Structure	Project Name	Description of Work	Total Project Cost (\$)	Grant Received (\$)
McKeough Dam	McKD-Hazard Tree Removal	Remove trees, shrubs and debris that have the potential to cause slope stability issues.	\$8,000	\$4,000
McKeough Dam	McKeough Floodway Berm repair	To repair a section of floodway that has a sink hole.	\$80,000	\$40,000
Cathcart Park	Cathcart Park shoreline Protection phase 4	Shoreline protection work to replace existing sheet wall with armour stones	\$300,000	\$150,000
McKeough Dam	McKeough Dam Drop structure repair	Repair several hairline cracks in concrete slab and barrier walls	\$60,000	\$30,000
LAWSS	LAWSS shoreline repair	The protection will be a combination of new stepped armour stone, similar to the protection at the Point Edward Waterfront Park and the reinstallation of some of the existing concrete blocks.	\$600,000	\$300,000

- Ongoing projects :
 - Cathcart park Phase IV:
 - contract awarded to Wicks Construction
 - total construction cost : \$272, 434.53
 - project start up meeting scheduled for December 5, 2014
 - a budget of \$300,000 has been confirmed for the project (WECI \$150,000; Great Lakes Sustainability Fund \$100,000; St. Clair Township - \$30,000, Ministry of Environment (COA) \$20,000)
 - project expected to be complete by end of January 2015
- McKeough Floodway Berm/Culvert Repair
 - culverts along the floodway are starting to show signs of deterioration
 - picture below shows a sink hole formed at floodway
 - sink hole formed due to failing couplers that connect 2 pipe/culvert sections
 - repair work is scheduled for this winter
 - due to the above issues a request for quotation was developed, in November 2014 to obtain potential costs to excavate and replace one run of the culvert measuring 34 meters.
 - Conservation Authority staff priced the cost of culvert replacement as well as requested quotes from local excavation contractors to complete the work
 - Armtec will supply a 34 m pipe at a cost of \$6936.00
 - McKeough Floodway staff recommended the project be awarded to B F Environmental at a cost of \$ 3890.00

BD-14-195

MacKinnon – Burrell

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated November 28, 2014 on the ongoing Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure projects across the watershed.”

CARRIED

A staff report regarding the LAWSS Shoreline Restoration Project was explained.

- Status Update: LAWSS Repair work
 - a budget of \$600,000 has been confirmed for the project (WECI \$300,000; LAWSS - \$300,000).
 - tenders were advertised for this project during the first week of November
 - tenders closed on November 27th
 - 16 companies received tenders and 14 reported back with their quotes
 - total tender prices vary from 626,257.30 to 1,809,536.59.
 - staff will review the tenders and make recommendation at the Board meeting on December 11th.
 - all permits and approvals have been obtained
 - construction is expected to begin January 2015

BD-14-196

Marriott - Burrell

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated November 28, 2014 regarding the LAWSS Shoreline Restoration Project and the verbal update on the tender results and accepts the tender of Amico Infrastructures (Oxford) Inc., subject to a complete review a satisfactory financial

capabilities review of the preferred contractor and authorizes the Chair to sign contracts for the project.”

CARRIED

A staff report regarding grants currently being implemented and grant applications was discussed.

- we have had great success with proposals again this year, with active grants totaling \$1,049,000 for projects valued at approximately \$5,140,000.
- many new grants were approved for 2014:
 - Ontario Trillium Foundation awarded \$58,000 to conduct fish and mussel inventories in Lake Huron Tributaries over two years, with a complementary education and outreach program that builds on the program we deliver at Kettle Stony Point First Nation with \$500 from the KSPFN \$46,007 grant from the Aboriginal Fund for Species at Risk.
 - Wildlife Habitat Canada awarded \$22,000 for wetland and riparian buffer projects on McKeough Lands.
 - a three year, \$75,900 grant from the Ministry of Natural Resources Species at Risk Stewardship Fund to continue to deliver Reptiles-at-Risk Program will help pay for snake and turtle monitoring, and related outreach and education activities.
 - Ministry of the Environment allocated \$50,000 to support our stewardship and water quality monitoring program in Lambton Shores. Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs and Environment Canada collaborate on the project by granting \$37,390 and \$10,000 respectively to Healthy Lake Huron Outreach.
 - Ontario Community Environment Fund grant for \$20,000 to support surface water sampling including water chemistry and benthic organism analysis.
 - Ontario Land Trust Alliance Program grant \$10,000 to support restoration of Bowens Creek Habitat Management Area and \$2,000 to support erosion protection on McKeough Lands.
 - \$1000 from Friends of the St. Clair River for Water Quality Monitoring in St. Clair River Tributaries.
 - about \$70,000 from Trees Canada towards planting about 40,000 trees.
 - \$8,000 from Ministry of Natural Resources for Phragmites treatment at Stag Island.
 - \$17,800 from Ministry of Natural Resources for Lambton Shores Coastal Wetland Restoration and riparian buffer restoration.
 - \$7,000 from Ministry of Natural Resources for riparian buffer restoration.
 - Ontario Land Trust Alliance Program granted \$2,000 toward interpretive signage focusing on SAR reptiles at Peers Wetland.
- there are also many ongoing projects:
 - 2014 is the third year of a three year, \$117,500 grant from the Environment Canada’s Great Lakes Sustainability Fund for wetlands creation and tree planting at Bowen’s Creek Habitat Management Area.
 - 2014 is the third year of three year \$173,400 grant from Ontario Trillium Foundation for landowner and community engagement, headwater wetland construction and other wildlife BMPS in the Upper Sydenham Watershed.
 - 2014 is the third year of a three year, \$38,000 grant from Showcasing Water Innovation towards Rural Storm water Management in the Lambton Shores Priority Watershed
 - 2014 is the second year of a three year \$244,050 grant from Environment Canada to implement best management projects through the Sydenham River Habitat Stewardship Program.

- 2014 is the second year of a two year \$85,000 grant for Sediment and Erosion Mitigation and Fish Habitat Enhancement of Agricultural Watercourses of the St. Clair River Area of Concern (AOC).

Directors' Comments:

- Congratulations, great work getting funds.

BD-14-197

Giffen - Faas

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated November 28, 2014 on grants currently being implemented by the Biology Department, and grant applications update.”

CARRIED

Authority revenue and expenditures to October 31, 2014, were reviewed.

BD-14-198

Miller - MacKinnon

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the revenue and expenditure report to October 31, 2014, as it relates to the budget.”

CARRIED

October 2014 disbursements totaling \$237,499.40 were considered.

BD-14-199

Rupke - Burrell

“That the Board of Directors approves the October 2014 disbursements as presented in the amount of \$237,499.40.”

CARRIED

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

BD-14-200

McCharles - Burrell

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the status report on the 2014 general levy receipts to date.”

CARRIED

The 2015 preliminary forecast budget was reviewed.

BD-14-201

MacKinnon - Boushy

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the 2015 proposed forecast budget of \$6,080,141 with a municipal general levy of \$701,455 including finalized Modified Current Value Assessment values, updates to specific projects and municipal comments received to date.”

CARRIED

Directors' Comments:

- what is driving the extra increase in costs?
- is insurance competitive?
- what is creating the 6.4 increase?

BD-14-202

McCharles – Bruinink

“That the Board of Directors directs the General Manager to write a letter to the province advising them of the Conservation Authority’s rising costs and request more funds to carry out the work of the Authority.”

CARRIED

The meeting went “In Camera” to discuss Conservation Awards.”

BD-14-203

Bilton - Burrell

“That the Board of Directors go in camera at 10:51 a.m. to discuss Conservation Awards with all staff remaining.”

CARRIED

BD-14-204

Bilton - Rupke

“That the Board of Directors rise and report at 10:57 a.m.”

CARRIED

BD-14-205

Burrell - McCharles

“That the Board of Directors adopt the report in the closed meeting.”

CARRIED

BD-14-206

Bilton - Miller

“That the meeting be adjourned.”



Steve Arnold
Chair

Brian McDougall
General Manager

December 11, 2014

The St. Clair Region Source Protection Board of Directors meeting was held on the above date, at the Administration Office in Strathroy, at approximately 11:15 a.m.

Present: Steve Arnold, Chair; Terry Burrell, Vice Chair; Bill Bilton, David Boushy, Tony Bruinink, Joe Faas, Norm Giffen, Betty Ann MacKinnon, Kevin Marriott, Don McCallum, John McCharles, Netty McEwen, Steve Miller, Gerry Rupke

Absent: Anne Gilbert, Anne Marie Gillis, Rod Glen, Frank Nemcek, Ben Phay, John Romlewski

Also Present: Source Protection Committee Chair, Bob Bedggood and Project Manager, Chris Tasker

Also Present for all or part of Meeting: Brian McDougall, General Manager; Rick Battson, Director of Communication; Patty Hayman, Director of Planning; Dallas Cundick, Environmental Planner/Regs Officer; Muriel Andreae, Manager of Biology; Jessica Van Zwol, Healthy Watershed Specialist; Melissa Deisley, Regulations Officer; Dan Skinner, Resource Technician; Tracy Prince, Director of Finance; Marlene Dorrestyn, Administrative Assistant

The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

SP-14-001

Giffen - McCallum

“That the Board of Directors adopts the agenda as proposed for the meeting.”

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.

SP-14-002

Bruinink - MacKinnon

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

CARRIED

An updated on the Source Protection Plans for the Thames Sydenham and Region Source Protection Region was presented.

SP-14-003

Bilton - Giffen

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the presentation on the Update on the Source Protection Plans for the Thames Sydenham and Region Source Protection Region.”

CARRIED

The proposed Source Protection Plan was considered.

- Background
 - in December 2012 the SPA submitted the Proposed Source Protection Plan to the Minister of Environment for approval. Since that time the SPC and staff have worked on updating technical work in the Assessment Reports and amending the Source Protection Plan to reflect the additional technical work. The Source Protection Plan has also been amended to reflect

comments received from the MOE in June 2014 and improvements in policy wording for consistency and clarity.

- all of the Assessment Reports for the Thames-Sydenham and Region have previously been approved. They will be submitted along with an Amended Proposed Source Protection Plan. As such these are being considered as “updated” Assessment Reports under the Clean Water Act. Following consultation in those areas affected by the updates, the SPC will submit the updated Assessment Report to the SPA with any comments received during the consultation. Local open houses have been held in the areas affected by the updates. The Updated Assessment Reports will also be consulted on with the Amended Proposed Source Protection Plan prior to submission to the SPA. The SPA shall then submit the Updated Assessment Reports to the Minister with any comments the SPA wishes to make.
- a Source Protection Plan for the Thames-Sydenham and Region has not yet been approved. The Proposed Source Protection Plan was submitted to the Minister in December 2012. The version which will be consulted on in December and January is therefore seen as an Amended Proposed Source Protection Plan. As such the consultation on this version of the SPP builds on the previous consultation. As it will be consulted on with the Updated Assessment Reports the SPC will follow the prescribed requirements for the consultation on the Updated Assessment Reports. In addition to the posting of the documents and the required notices, open houses will be held at each of the CA offices. The consultation on the SPP and AR is planned for December and January with open houses being held both before and after the holiday season. Comments will be received up to January 20, 2015. The SPC will consider comments and possible revision at their January 30, 2015 meeting.
- following that meeting the Amended Proposed Source Protection Plan and Updated Assessment Reports will be submitted to the SPA for submission to the Minister with any comments the SPA wishes to make.
- Discussion
 - the Act is clear that the plan, comments and resolutions are to be submitted to the Minister by the SPA. The Source Protection team is prepared to undertake this on behalf of the Source Protection Authorities of the region. Recommendation 1 provides direction for staff to comply with the requirement on behalf of the SPA.
 - the SPA may wish to provide their support of the policies in the Proposed Source Protection Plan. Recommendation 2 provides general support and acknowledges the considerable work the SPC has undertaken to develop and consult on the Source Protection Plan.

SP-14-004

Burrell - McCallum

“That the Board of Directors direct staff to submit the proposed Source Protection Plan to the Minister of the Environment as required by the Clean Water Act; and further, that the St. Clair Region Source Protection Authority provide its support for the policy directions of the Source Protection Committee and acknowledge the considerable work the Source Protection Committee has undertaken to develop and consult on this Source Protection Plan.”

CARRIED

A report regarding Source Protection Committee membership and appointments was reviewed.

- Background
 - Striking Committee
 - the UTRCA meets as a Source Protection Authority (SPA) to satisfy responsibilities the Clean Water Act (CWA) places on the SPA. The UTRSPA is the lead SPA for the Thames-Sydenham and Region (TSR).

- the Striking Committee was formed for the creation of the SPC so that the 3 SPAs in the TSR could jointly appoint members to the Source Protection Committee (SPC). Two members are appointed to the Striking Committee by each of the 3 SPAs in the TSR, resulting in a Striking Committee of 6 members.
- although its original purpose was the formation of the SPC, which was accomplished in 2007, the Striking Committee is still necessary to fill any vacancies in the SPC.
- Vacancies resulting from election
 - some of the municipal members on the SPC are councilors while others are staff. In both cases the member is nominated jointly by the municipalities that they represent. It is possible that as a result of the recent election, municipalities may wish to appoint new members or members may wish to resign. The striking committee will need to appoint from nominations provided jointly by the municipalities or they may appoint an interim member to represent the municipalities.
 - it is important that a vacancy not be left for very long due to its impact on the SPC's ability to achieve quorum in order to carry out their responsibilities under the CWA.
- Vacancies following plan approval
 - one third of the SPC appointments will expire when the Source Protection Plan (SPP) approval is posted on the EBR, (anticipated in 2015). All three of the first Nations member appointments expire with the approval of the SPP. The second third expire on the first anniversary of the approval and the last third expire on the second anniversary of the approval. Each term at that point will be a three year term. As a result, following the approval of the SPP a third of the committee appointments will expire each year.
 - each year it is a third of each of the municipal, sectors or other members whose appointments expire.
- Discussion
 - the current appointment period ends December 31, 2014 however it will be extended to remain consistent with the requirements of the CWA as discussed above.
 - in preparation for the vacancies created by the approval of the SPP, members will be asked to indicate whether they would like to remain on the committee for an additional year or 2. Where members represent a municipality or were nominated by a sector, the nominating organization(s) may also be asked to provide input into when appointments should expire.
 - all vacancies must be filled through the same process as when the members were appointed. This involves advertisements or municipal, First Nation or sector nominations.
 - it is possible to re-appoint the same member, however the process described above must still be followed.
 - it is possible for the SPA (through the striking committee) to appoint an interim member to fill a vacancy until the process for appointments can be completed. The current member could be appointed as an interim member. In appointing an interim member the SPA must, to the extent possible, appoint someone who is able to represent the interests of the sector they represent.
 - following appointment by the striking committee, the three SPAs will be asked to confirm, through resolution, the appointments made by the striking committee on their behalf.

SP-14-005

Faas - Bruinink

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated November 12, 2014, regarding Source Protection Committee membership and appointments.”

CARRIED

Directors' Comments:

- MOE is cutting back on funding, will there be cutbacks for this program as well?
- *the Government is pushing this project and expect similar funding as last year. The Minister is very positive about the plan, but does not guarantee funding.*

SP-14-006

Miller - Burrell

“That the meeting be adjourned.”

Steve Arnold
Chair



Brian McDougall
General Manager

February 5, 2015

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 10:30 a.m.

Directors Present: Steve Arnold, Chair
Terry Burrell, Vice Chair
Bill Bilton
Betty Ann MacKinnon
Rod Glen
Anne Marie Gillis
Joe Faas
Norm Giffen

Absent: Tony Bruinink

Also Present: Brian McDougall, General Manager
Marlene Dorrestyn, Administrative Executive Assistant
Tracy Prince, Director of Financial Services
Kevan Baker, Director of Lands
Rick Battson, Director of Communications

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and welcomed Ken Williams, from Woods Pearson Associates, Authority auditor, to the meeting.

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.

Ken presented the draft financial statements. The Authority had another successful year financially and operationally. He presented the Auditors statement advising that it was a clean audit and commended Tracy on the great job she had done preparing the information for the audit. Mr. Williams thanked Brian, Tracy and staff for their help in the audit.

EC-15-001

Glen – MacKinnon

“That the Executive Committee acknowledges the report from the Authority’s auditors, Woods, Pearson & Associates Chartered Accountants LLP, accepts responsibility for the 2014 financial statements and the Statement of Continuity of Reserves and Reserve Funds and year end finances and further approves the yearend adjustments, reserves and reserve adjustments as outlined in the schedule dated December 31, 2014 and recommends that the Board of Directors approves the 2014 Audited Financial Statements.”

CARRIED

The General Manager’s Report was presented:

- September 18/14 - Draft budget presented to Board of Directors – approved for circulation to municipalities for comment subject to inclusion of updated assessment values to be provided by the Province

- November 9/14 – Proposed Budget circulated to municipalities for comment and use in drafting municipal budgets
- November 13/14 – Proposed Budget and received municipal comments presented to the Board of Directors
- December 11/14 – Proposed Budget and received municipal comments presented to the Board of Directors. Board requested that staff provide a report outlining the reasons for the proposed \$42,526 increase in General Levy.
- Township of Dawn-Euphemia had specific questions regarding conservation areas special levy - issue resolved.
- there are two major influences in the background that have culminated in the proposed \$42,526 (6.4%) increase in municipal levy in 2015
 - for the past 20 years, the Authority has implemented an entrepreneurial philosophy – focusing on exterior revenue sources while providing a broad cross section of programs, both mandatory and voluntary, to the benefit of our municipal partners, residents and the environment of our watersheds – resulting in the lowest municipal levy % of overall budget of the 36 Conservation Authorities in the Province. However, as a result, even a modest increase in levy dollar amount can seem to be a significant percentage increase.
 - provincial support for mandatory programs has remained unchanged over that same 20 year period – as a result increases are borne by a smaller portion of the overall budget – which exaggerates the percentage increase in those areas.
- the table below outlines the major expenditures increases in the proposed 2015 Budget, increased expenditures in other areas were less than \$10,000.00
- the largest percentage increase is for insurance, while the others are all based on employee salaries and benefits (salaries and benefits costs include: wages, retirement/pension plan, healthcare benefits, workers safety insurance board costs, employment insurance)
- the Authority’s approved Corporate Compensation Strategy provides a grid with 4% increases (over each of 5 steps moving up the wage range as experience increases) provided annually on the basis of a successful year outlined in a Performance Appraisal approved by the General Manager. The Authority has several young staff who are in the process of working their way across the grid.
- in 2014, the Board approved a market comparison of the corporate compensation plan. The plan outlines that a market comparison should be undertaken every 5 years in order to maintain a competitive plan. In 2009, a market analysis was completed by a consultant and the adjustments were implemented in 2010. The 2014 review (updates have been provided to the Board in November and December) is all but complete. The proposed adjustments to the plan will be presented to the Board in April with the recommendation to implement the adjustment as of July 1st.

Most Significant Expenditure Increases In Proposed 2015 Budget	% Increase	\$ Increase
Cost Of Living Adjustment – Salary & Benefits	2.0%	\$ 41,000.00
Salary Grid Adjustments – Salary & Benefits	1.56%	\$ 32,000.00
Corporate Market Comparison – Salary & Benefits	2.83%	\$58,000.00
Insurance	8%	\$ 13,991.00

- in order to balance the budget, increased revenues were identified in several areas with the most significant increases outlined in the table below
 - with Provincial funding of mandatory programs being capped and many grants restricting the percentage of the grant available for salaries and benefits or administrative costs those costs are allocated to remaining revenue sources including General Levy. As our General Levy is only 11.5% of our total budget, even a small increase in expenses across the board gets magnified in the General Levy percent increase.
 - funding from Reserves was targeted to those program areas where there may be an opportunity to obtain grants to offset the use of Reserves

Most Significant Revenues Increases To Balance Increased Expenditures in Proposed 2015 Budget	% Increase	\$ Increase
Municipal General Levy	6.4%	\$ 41,000.00
Transfers From Reserves	25.8%	\$ 92,255.00
Fees	3.5%	\$ 37,800.00

St. Clair Region CA Budget Highlights	% of Budget	\$
Total Revenue		\$ 6,080,141.00
Self Generated Revenue	56.1%	\$ 3,408,057.00
Grants (Provincial / Federal / Other)	19.6%	\$1,190,324.00
Municipal Levy	11.5%	\$ 701,455.00
Authority Reserves	7.4%	\$ 450,085.00
Benefitting Municipality Special Levy	5.4%	\$ 330,220.00
Total Expenditures		\$ 6,080,141.00
Conservation Areas & Lands ♦	22.6%	\$ 1,372,700.00
Conservation Services & Healthy Watershed Grants ♦	18.6%	\$ 1,133,551.00
Administration	13.9%	\$ 843,940.00
Flood & Erosion Control	10%	\$ 609,950.00
Capital Projects ♦	9%	\$ 548,200.00
Planning & Regulations	7.2%	\$ 439,600.00
Special Project Management ♦	6.2%	\$ 377,500.00
Employment & Stewardship Programs ♦	6.1%	\$ 370,000.00
Information & Education	3.5%	\$ 210,900.00
Aquatic Systems	2.9%	\$ 173,800.00

♦ No General Levy is allocated to any of the identified program areas

Southwestern Ontario Conservation Authorities 2014		
Conservation Authority	2014 Budget	Municipal Levy as % of Total Budget
Ausable Bayfield	\$4,898,384	24.46%
Catfish Creek	\$1,354,436	16.16%
Essex Region	\$6,815,740	41.04%
Grand River	\$29,794,957	34.54%
Long Point Region	\$3,603,560	29.87%
Lower Thames Valley	\$2,245,649	35.00%
Maitland Valley	\$1,902,438	62.24%
Saugeen Valley	\$2,977,000	52.30%
St. Clair Region	\$5,669,474	11.62%
Upper Thames River	\$11,769,154	35.88%
<i>Average</i>	<i>\$7,103,079</i>	<i>34.31%</i>

EC-15-002

Bilton - Faas

“That the Executive Committee acknowledges the General Manager’s report, dated January 26, 2015.”

CARRIED

Minutes of the December 8, 2014 Conservation Ontario Council meeting were considered.

Directors’ Comments:

- a question about CA University – originated at the Latornell Conference, as a means of educating staff (succession planning). Latornell conference has become too large to handle this program, so it is now run as CA University, an in house training program.

EC-15-003

Gillis - MacKinnon

“That the Executive Committee acknowledges the minutes of the December 8, 2014 Conservation Ontario Council meeting.”

CARRIED

November and December 2014 disbursements were reviewed.

EC-15-003

Giffen - Glen

“That the Executive Committee approves the November and December 2014 disbursements, as presented in the amount of \$891,032.59.”

CARRIED

The General Manager advised that all 2014 municipal general levy payments had been received by year end.

EC-15-004

MacKinnon - Glen

“That the Executive Committee acknowledges that all 2014 municipal general levy has been received.”

CARRIED

The draft budget was reviewed for approval to the Annual Meeting.

EC-15-005

MacKinnon - Faas

“That the Executive Committee recommends to the Board of Directors the amended 2015 Proposed Budget, dated February 19, 2015 of \$6,080,141 with a municipal general levy of \$701,455.”

CARRIED

Approval of a new signing officer was considered.

EC-15-006

Faas - Bilton

“That the Executive Committee approves Sarah Kellestine, Payroll/Accounting Clerk, as a signing officer on cheques up to \$5,000.00 and remove Diane Brodie as a signing officer.”

CARRIED

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

- Highlights
 - slightly below average flow conditions into 2015
 - very dry December with 30% normal precipitation
 - late snowpack conditions began in January
 - lake levels continue to improve over 2013
- Watershed Precipitation and Streamflow Conditions
 - 2014 saw a total of eight bulletins issued with six Flood Watches and two Watershed Conditions Statements. Intermediate periods resulted in a return to average levels throughout in the summer and into the fall period.
 - flows at Wallaceburg increased seasonally ending higher than 2013 with a significant response to an event in late November prior to freezing in late December and into January
 - trends in Wallaceburg suggest higher than average flow conditions by 20cm over the summer compared to last two years however there were no significant events extreme events in 2014 when compared with long term data.
 - current levels reported at all stations are generally below seasonal normal possibly due to late snow pack conditions and a very dry December.
 - while precipitation numbers were moving toward a predicted yearly average of 100% near the end of 2014, December turn out to be a very dry month with only 30% of the normal precipitation
 - subsequently, 2014 will end with a regional annual deficit of 5.2% of normal which may possibly impact slightly on water reserves into 2015
- Flood Threat
 - with reduced precipitation conditions have since stabilized to below average flows in the watershed. With the retention of snowpack and colder temperatures into January it is anticipated that any new precipitation will likely fall and accumulate as snow and may reducing the impact of weather events moving into the winter months. Seasonal snow surveys commenced November 15th with little or no snow coverage until early January when lake effect snowfall dominated over the region. A comparison with 2014 identifies the late arrival of snow in 2015. (Snow water equivalent is used to determine the equivalent amount of water should the snowpack melt). River ice conditions are variable across the watershed with faster flowing sections remaining open while others areas have 2 to 4 inches of weak ice cover. Overall ice conditions will be assessed into February with on-ice surveys. In addition, all conditions will be monitored into early 2015 to provide a comprehensive watershed conditions assessment in anticipation of the spring freshet period. These changing conditions are carefully monitored to assess potential localized flood situations as we move into the winter months. Advisories will continue to be provided as watershed conditions dictate.
- Weather Forecast
 - January – below average temperatures and precipitation for the month.
 - Winter – slightly below normal temperatures and precipitation are expected into the winter season.
 - Environment Canada (EC) and the Climate Prediction Center (CPC) are now forecasting greater chances for lower than normal temperatures in January for their respective Canadian

and U.S. Great Lakes basins and temperatures will continue to be slightly below normal into 2015. Current provincial snow conditions have changed significantly since the beginning of January.

- Great Lakes levels
 - the monthly comparison for December 2014 lake levels continued to improve significantly compared to 2013 in both Lake St. Clair and Lake Huron with an increases of 34cm and 56cm respectively. Lake Huron levels also continue to exceed the 10 year long term average by 60cm although remain below the average for the entire period of record (96 years). Great lakes ice cover will also continue to influence snow conditions in the leeward shorelines of Lake Huron. Currently ice is beginning to form across Lake Huron due to colder temperatures and as lake temperatures fall these ice conditions will migrate to other areas of the lake. Full coverage of the lake will be highly dependent on temperatures considering the late start to the winter conditions. The reduction in open water in the lakes tends to reduce the impact of lake effect snow conditions later in the season. Ongoing ice monitoring will be included as part of this report during the winter season.
 - recent studies into long term changes in ice conditions suggest a downward trend in lake ice coverage and overall thickness in the last 40 years.

EC-15-007

MacKinnon - Burrell

“That the Executive Committee acknowledges the report dated January 23, 2015 on the Great Lakes water levels and current watershed conditions.”

CARRIED

Minutes of the January 8, 2015 Flood Action Committee were reviewed.

EC-15-008

Burrell - Bilton

“That the Executive Committee acknowledges the minutes of the Flood Action Committee held on January 8, 2015 in Wallaceburg.”

CARRIED

A staff report regarding the 2012 Deer Hunt on McKeough Upstream Lands was presented.

- 40 hunters on the 2014-2015 McKeough Floodway Upstream Properties Conservation hunting list
- staff are currently reviewing and revising our hunting permit package to make it more user friendly as well as discussing and implementing some of the suggestions from hunters, enforcement officials and CA staff.
- revision to last year’s permission agreement are being completed to address some new issues and opportunities that have arose, i.e. apprentice hunting and mentorship, target and trap shooting on McKeough properties.
- staff have completed revisions to the 2015-2016 hunting permit application and a draft has been circulated for discussion and input from CA staff and Wildlife Enforcement Officers. Once the final revisions have been completed the updated hunting permit application will be posted on our website.
- the availability of the hunting package and new aerial maps online, were received positively by most hunters and some even commented that the new online maps are much more detailed.

- the controlled deer hunt zone draws were not required this year as the number of hunters applying for each zone were within our allowable numbers, allowing every hunter to hunt their first zone choice.
- the hunting list was emailed to enforcement agencies once the list was finalized and complete and the controlled deer hunt zone allocations were emailed to enforcement agencies before the November and December controlled deer hunt seasons.
- this is the second year that CA staff have not had a complaint from other hunters or neighbors regarding hunting issues on CA Lands.
- November Controlled Deer Hunt
 - 6 hunters on the controlled deer hunt list for the November season
 - McKeough staff patrolled the channel and upstream properties at random times throughout the week during the controlled deer hunt.
 - there were no hunting related problems or violations found during this controlled deer hunt
- December Controlled Deer Hunt
 - 7 hunters on the controlled deer hunt list for the December Season
 - McKeough staff patrolled the channel and upstream properties at random times throughout the week during the controlled deer hunt.
 - there were no hunting related problems or violations found during this controlled deer hunt
- Issues and suggestions
 - inquiries were received regarding apprenticeship/mentoring hunting on CA lands. Staff contacted a wildlife enforcement officer and consulted the Ontario Hunting Regulations and have completed a draft of the apprentice/mentorship hunting permit application, and are currently reviewing with staff.
 - inquiries were received regarding target and trap shooting on CA properties. Staff discussed permitting this activity, but it was decided that there are target shooting clubs in the area that cater to this activity and that the CA would not be able to safely or adequately monitor and/or regulate this type of activity on CA properties.
 - Wildlife enforcement officials have suggested that we sign all our properties with the boundary designation signs similar to the one's installed on the McKeough upstream properties. It was also suggested that a contact number be included on the sign. It was also suggested that we install no hunting signs on properties that the CA does not permit hunting to inform the public and allow enforcement officials to enforce more stringent game laws and fines.
 - on Oct. 6, 2014 McKeough Staff observed a hunter in the channel who had shot a deer with a crossbow. Staff determined the hunter was not permitted to hunt on the CA lands and the Conservation Officer was contacted. The Conservation Officer contacted the OPP and two OPP officers met us on site. After a quick investigation and inspection, the hunter was issued a trespass to hunt fine, forfeited the deer, his cross bow and bolts. The other gentleman, that the hunter called to assist him with dragging the deer out of the channel, was given a warning of "trespass to hunt".

Directors' Comments:

- request that staff continue to educate and communicate with permittees, Conservation Officers and police regarding our permit program.

EC-15-009

Faas - Bilton

“That the Executive Committee acknowledges the report dated January 5, 2015 regarding the 2014 deer hunt on McKeough Upstream Lands.”

CARRIED

- Conservation Areas Projects approved for 2015:
 - Warwick Conservation Area:
 - new main access roadway into the conservation area to be constructed. Road design and tendering has occurred, tender closing is scheduled for February 12 - we hope construction to be completed by May 15
 - 15 new picnic tables to be purchased & assembled
 - pool washroom and pump house to be resided with steel
 - roads to be upgraded with gravel
 - new WIFI equipment and underground cable to be installed
 - new campground reservation and accounting system has been implemented
 - L.C. Henderson Conservation Area:
 - reservoir weir to be improved with new cable concrete surfacing
 - 15 new picnic tables to be purchased & assembled
 - roads to be upgraded with gravel
 - the main pavilion roof to be replaced with steel
 - basketball and volleyball standards to be upgraded (funded through Foundation bingo)
 - A.W. Campbell Conservation Area:
 - 15 new picnic tables to be purchased & assembled
 - roads to be upgraded with gravel
 - new carpet to be installed on the mini golf course (funded through Foundation bingo)
 - hydro panel at pool building to be replaced
 - main entrance gates, fencing and parking area to be upgraded
 - 2 canoes to be purchased (funded through Foundation bingo)
 - new campground reservation and accounting system has been implemented
- Other Conservation Areas:
 - new property identification signs to be installed at Tony Stranak and Clark Wright Conservation Areas
 - 750 meters of trail to be surfaced with chip and dust at Peers Wetland
 - new 12' x 12' gazebo to be constructed at the C.J. McEwen Conservation Area
 - additional boardwalks and trail resurfacing to take place at the Strathroy Conservation Area
 - boat ramp and harbour area to be dredged at the Highland Glen Conservation Area
- McKeough Upstream Lands:
 - Property 38 – a wetland to be developed
 - Property 97 – soil erosion works have been completed

- approximately 5.2 acres of grass buffer strips to be planted along drains and natural water courses throughout the McKeough Upstream Lands
- Properties 38 & 39 - two homes and 5 out buildings to be demolished
- Lambton County Lands:
 - Lambton County Heritage Forest:
 - staff regularly inspect and perform maintenance on the 8 kms of trails
 - forestry staff to inventory, mark and oversee logging operations within one of the forestry compartments
 - Marthaville:
 - staff regularly inspect and perform maintenance
 - phragmites around the ponds to be managed with herbicide
 - Bowes Creek:
 - forestry staff to manage the existing 50,000 seedlings planted on this property over the past number of years
 - main access laneway to be gated
 - a looped trail to be developed between the St. Clair Parkway and the rail tracks
 - Perch Creek:
 - trail improvements to include widening and extending the existing trail
 - staff regularly inspect and perform maintenance
 - existing trails will be cut by a local grass contractor

EC-15-010

Burrell - Faas

“That the Executive Committee acknowledges the Conservation Lands status report dated January 23, 2015.”

CARRIED

Under New Business, it was reported that “Brake for Snakes” signs are up on Kimball Sideroad in Lambton County. It was suggested that the signs come down until options are presented to the Board for approval, after the situation of the driver being charged for stopping for ducklings in Ottawa.

EC-15-011

Faas - Glen

“That the meeting be adjourned.”



Steve Arnold
Chair

Brian McDougall
General Manager

ST. CLAIR REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Financial Statements

Year Ended December 31, 2014

DRAFT

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Members of St. Clair Region Conservation Authority

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of St. Clair Region Conservation Authority, which comprise the statement of financial position as at December 31, 2014 and the statements of operations, continuity of reserves and reserve funds, changes in net financial assets and net tangible capital assets, stewardship programs and cash flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

(continues)

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of St. Clair Region Conservation Authority as at December 31, 2014 and the results of its operations, changes in reserves and reserve fund balances, net financial assets and net tangible capital assets, stewardship programs and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards.

Strathroy, Ontario
February 5, 2015

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS LLP
Licensed Public Accountants

DRAFT

ST. CLAIR REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Statement of Financial Position

Statement 1

Year Ended December 31, 2014

	2014	2013
FINANCIAL ASSETS		
Cash	\$ 3,214,286	\$ 3,434,103
Marketable securities (Note 6)	2,063,430	2,029,971
Accounts receivable	648,742	300,656
Long-term investments (Note 6)	38,605	38,266
	5,965,063	5,802,996
Restricted Assets (Note 8)		
Cash and cash equivalents - Restricted Reserves (Note 7)	11,713	32,314
Cash and cash equivalents - Stewardship Program (Note 7)	275,940	414,111
	287,653	446,425
TOTAL FINANCIAL ASSETS	6,252,716	6,249,421
FINANCIAL LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	157,530	125,988
Deferred income	1,346,146	1,303,016
Due to Stewardship Programs (Note 9)	275,940	414,111
Total Financial Liabilities	1,779,616	1,843,115
NET FINANCIAL ASSETS	4,473,100	4,406,306
NON-FINANCIAL ASSETS (Note 2, Schedule 7)		
Tangible Capital Assets, net of accumulated amortization	19,565,657	19,977,065
NET ASSETS	\$ 24,038,757	\$ 24,383,371
CONSERVATION AUTHORITY POSITION		
Reserves and reserve funds, Statements 2 & 3	\$ 4,473,100	\$ 4,406,306
Net tangible Capital Assets, Statement 3	19,565,657	19,977,065
TOTAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY POSITION	\$ 24,038,757	\$ 24,383,371

See notes to financial statements

ST. CLAIR REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
Statement of Continuity of Reserves and Reserve Funds
Year Ended December 31, 2014

Statement 2

	Balance at beginning of year	Transfers to or (from) Operations before interest	Interest earned	Balance at end of year
Reserve Funds				
Parks Commission	\$ 20,972	\$ (21,000)	\$ 28	\$ -
Forestry	11,683	-	29	11,712
	32,655	(21,000)	57	11,712
Other Reserves				
Administration centre	1,666,848	13,102	8,334	1,688,284
Coldstream remedial	7,606	-	37	7,643
Conservation services	765,732	107,615	3,829	877,176
General Conservation Areas	547,272	17,480	2,736	567,488
Insurance	26,293	-	131	26,424
Land management	213,396	-	1,067	214,463
Mckeough property management	337,530	(19,239)	1,688	319,979
Oil and gas	72,397	-	362	72,759
Planning	167,923	(17,524)	840	151,239
Resource awareness	80,114	-	400	80,514
Vehicles and equipment	488,540	(35,564)	2,443	455,419
	4,373,651	65,870	21,867	4,461,388
	\$ 4,406,306	\$ 44,870	\$ 21,924	\$ 4,473,100

The Administration centre reserve transfer for the year is comprised of a transfer from the Parks Commission of \$21,000 less the Administration Centre operating deficit of \$7,898 for the current year.

ST. CLAIR REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
Statement of Changes in Net Financial & Net Tangible Capital Assets *Statement 3*
Year Ended December 31, 2014

	2014	2013
Net Financial Assets		
Net Financial Assets, beginning of year	\$ 4,406,306	\$ 4,424,039
Net income adjustment	(344,614)	(325,161)
Acquisition of tangible capital assets	(157,660)	(241,216)
Amortization of tangible capital assets	563,433	542,846
(Gain)/loss on disposal of tangible capital assets	(6,265)	(8,232)
Proceeds on sale of tangible capital assets	11,900	14,030
Increase (decrease) in net financial assets	66,794	(17,733)
Net Financial Assets, end of year	\$ 4,473,100	\$ 4,406,306
Net Tangible Capital Assets		
Net Tangible Capital Assets, beginning of year	\$ 19,977,065	\$ 20,284,493
Acquisition of tangible capital assets	157,660	241,216
Amortization of tangible capital assets	(563,433)	(542,846)
Gain/(loss) on disposal of tangible capital assets	6,265	8,232
Proceeds on sale of tangible capital assets	(11,900)	(14,030)
Increase (decrease) in net tangible capital assets	(411,408)	(307,428)
Net Tangible Capital Assets, end of year	\$ 19,565,657	\$ 19,977,065

ST. CLAIR REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

**Statement of Operations
Year Ended December 31, 2014**

Statement 4

	Budget (Unaudited)	2014	2013
REVENUE			
<i>Government Grants</i>			
Grants- Section 39	\$ 310,000	\$ 310,000	\$ 310,003
Grants- Other	927,800	759,427	653,938
<i>Municipal levies</i>			
Municipal Levies- General	658,935	658,935	631,915
Municipal Levies- Special	328,265	332,882	463,176
<i>Other revenue</i>			
Contributions	387,750	730,040	633,788
Other Revenue	2,200,283	930,888	1,015,742
Interest	65,000	76,201	99,543
Conservation Areas	994,126	1,192,908	1,008,105
Gain/(loss) on investments	-	154	(2,548)
	5,872,159	4,991,435	4,813,662
EXPENDITURES			
Administration, Schedule 1	798,130	477,086	567,029
Capital development, Schedule 2	690,685	454,499	504,786
Operations, Schedule 3	3,014,031	2,502,937	2,405,456
Property management, Schedule 4	300,487	277,207	342,923
Conservation area maintenance, Schedule 5	1,068,826	1,212,912	1,011,201
	5,872,159	4,924,641	4,831,395
	-	66,794	(17,733)
ADJUSTMENTS FOR TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS			
Acquisition of tangible capital assets	-	157,660	241,216
Amortization of tangible capital assets	-	(563,433)	(542,846)
Gain/(loss) on disposal of tangible capital assets	-	6,265	8,232
Proceeds on sale of tangible capital assets	-	(11,900)	(14,030)
	-	(411,408)	(307,428)
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenditures	\$ -	\$ (344,614)	\$ (325,161)

See notes to financial statements

ST. CLAIR REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
Statement of Cash Flows *Statement 5*
Year Ended December 31, 2014

	2014	2013
OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Deficiency of revenue over expenses	\$ (344,614)	\$ (325,161)
Items not affecting cash:		
Amortization	563,433	542,846
Gain on disposal of tangible capital assets	(6,265)	(8,232)
Gain on disposal of investments	(110,655)	(323)
Unrealized gains (loss) on investments	110,502	2,871
	212,401	212,001
Changes in non-cash working capital:		
Accounts receivable	(348,086)	361,342
Accounts payable	(31,542)	(456,115)
Deferred income	43,130	203,554
Due to Stewardship Programs	(138,171)	(110,169)
	(474,669)	(1,388)
Cash flow from (used by) operating activities	(262,268)	210,613
INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Purchase of investments	(1,693,409)	(1,030,197)
Proceeds from sale of investments	1,723,187	977,000
Long-term investments	(339)	(4,907)
Cash flow from (used by) investing activities	29,439	(58,104)
CAPITAL ACTIVITIES		
Acquisition of tangible capital assets	(157,660)	(241,216)
Proceeds on disposal of tangible capital assets	11,900	14,030
Cash flow used by capital activities	(145,760)	(227,186)
DECREASE IN CASH FLOW	(378,589)	(74,677)
Cash - beginning of year	3,880,528	3,955,205
CASH - END OF YEAR	\$ 3,501,939	\$ 3,880,528
CASH CONSISTS OF:		
Cash	\$ 3,214,286	\$ 3,434,103
Restricted Cash - Middlesex Rural Stewardship	275,940	414,111
Cash and cash equivalents - Restricted Reserves	11,713	32,314
	\$ 3,501,939	\$ 3,880,528

See notes to financial statements

ST. CLAIR REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
Notes to Financial Statements
Year Ended December 31, 2014

1. NATURE OF AUTHORITY

The Authority, a non-profit entity created by Section 38 of the Ontario Conservation Authorities Act on January 16, 1961, exists to manage watershed resources through conservation, preservation, restoration and enhancement and to ensure these resources are maintained while meeting the needs of the public.

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of Accounting

The financial statements of the Authority are prepared by management in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles for organizations operating in the local government sector, as recommended by the Public Sector Accounting Board of CPA Canada.

Measurement uncertainty

Certain amounts in the financial statements are subject to measurement uncertainty and are based on the Authority's best information and judgment. Estimates are periodically reviewed and any adjustments necessary are reported in operations in the period in which they become known. Actual results could differ from these estimates.

Examples of significant estimates include:

- providing for amortization of tangible capital assets;
- the estimated useful lives of tangible capital assets;
- the allowance for doubtful accounts (if any); and
- providing for accrued liabilities.

Accrual Accounting

The accrual basis of accounting is used to record expenditures in the period in which costs are incurred and to recognize revenue in the period in which it is earned.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

The Authority considers deposits readily available for use as cash and cash equivalents. All other cash like instruments are classified as investments..

(continues)

ST. CLAIR REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
Notes to Financial Statements
Year Ended December 31, 2014

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES *(continued)*

Tangible Capital Assets

Tangible capital assets are significant economic resources managed by the Authority and are a key component in the long term delivery of the Authority's programs. Tangible capital assets include all land purchases and acquisitions for the following effective January 1, 2012:

- a) buildings over \$250,000;
- b) bridges, walk-ways, boardwalks over \$25,000;
- c) furniture and fixtures over \$1,000;
- d) computers over \$1,000;
- e) software over \$5,000;
- f) vehicles, machinery and equipment over \$5,000;
- g) all construction in progress; and
- h) all land acquisitions.

Prior to January 1, 2012 all acquisitions over \$1,000 were capitalized for the above noted categories.

Tangible capital assets are recorded at cost. The cost of a tangible capital asset includes the purchase price of the asset and all other costs incurred to make the asset available for use.

Related government assistance and other contributions are recognized in revenue when received.

The Authority records donated tangible capital assets at fair value at the date of contribution when fair value can reasonably be estimated. When a fair value cannot be determined, the tangible capital asset is recorded at a nominal value.

Tangible Capital Assets - Amortization

Tangible capital assets are amortized annually on a straight line basis over the estimated useful life of the asset.

Land and land improvements		non-amortized
Buildings, dams and related structures	10 to 50 years	straight-line method
Machinery and equipment	3 to 20 years	straight-line method
Motor vehicles	3 to 6 years	straight-line method
Computer hardware	3 years	straight-line method
Computer software	5 years	straight-line method
Furniture and fixtures	7 to 20 years	straight-line method

(continues)

ST. CLAIR REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
Notes to Financial Statements
Year Ended December 31, 2014

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (*continued*)

Reserves and Reserve Funds

Upon approval of the Authority Executive Committee or Board of Directors, appropriations are made to (from) operations for future expenditures and contingencies. A reserve fund indicates cash that has been set aside as restricted assets, whereas a reserve is an appropriation of surplus and no cash is set aside.

Revenue Recognition

General grants and levies are recognized in the period they pertain to.

Special grants, levies and other services are recognized as the related expenses are incurred and the services are delivered. Any amounts received in excess of special grants and levies are reflected as deferred revenue until approval is obtained for use.

Special grants, levies and other services are recognized as the related expenses are incurred and the services are delivered. Any amounts received in excess of special grants and levies are reflected as deferred revenue until approval is obtained for use.

Interest income is recognized on the accrual basis as it is earned.

Donation income is recognized when received.

3. SEGMENTED INFORMATION

The Authority provides a range of services to members. For management reporting purposes the Authority's operations are reported along departmental lines by the nature of services provided. The following departments have been separately disclosed in the segmented information, along with a description of their services.

- **Administration** includes support to staff, management and the board of directors, all aspects of financial accounting and management, creation and monitoring of budgets, collection of accounts, frontline reception and other related services.
- **Capital Development** includes acquisition of tangible capital assets, conservation area development expenses, special projects carried out on behalf of members and other related services.
- **Operations** includes activities relating to source water protection, planning, flood control and forecasting, erosion control, ice management, technical studies, community relations and other related services.
- **Property Management** includes management of certain conservation properties on behalf of members.
- **Conservation Area Maintenance** includes activities relating to the operation and maintenance of conservation areas.

ST. CLAIR REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
Notes to Financial Statements
Year Ended December 31, 2014

4. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The Authority's financial instruments consist of cash, investments, accounts receivable, restricted assets, and accounts payable and accrued liabilities. Unless otherwise noted, it is management's opinion that the Authority is not exposed to significant interest, currency or credit risks arising from these financial instruments. The fair values of these instruments approximate their carrying values, unless otherwise noted.

All transactions related to financial instruments are recorded on a settlement date basis.

The Authority classifies its financial instruments into one of the following categories based on the purpose for which the asset was acquired. The Authority's accounting policy for each category is as follows:

1. Held-for-trading

This category is comprised of certain investments in equity and debt instruments. They are carried in the statement of financial position at fair value with changes in fair value recognized in the statement of operations. Transaction costs related to instruments classified as held-for-trading are expensed as incurred.

2. Loans and receivables

These assets are non-derivative financial assets resulting from the delivery of cash or other assets by a lender to a borrower in return for a promise to repay on a specified date or dates, or on demand. They arise principally through the provision of goods and services to customers (accounts receivable), but also incorporate other types of contractual monetary assets. They are initially recognized at fair value and subsequently carried at amortized cost, using the effective interest rate method, less any provision for impairment. Transaction costs related to loans and receivables are expensed as incurred.

3. Other financial liabilities

Other financial liabilities includes all financial liabilities other than those classified as held-for-trading and are comprised of trade payables and other short-term monetary liabilities. These liabilities are initially recognized at fair value and subsequently carried at amortized cost using the effective interest rate method. Transaction costs related to other financial liabilities are expensed as incurred.

5. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

Cash and cash equivalents include cash balances held in special accounts earning interest at rates between 0.25% and 1.20%. The interest earned on these cash balances during the year was \$44,070 (2013 - \$46,860). The interest from these cash balances has been included in interest in the other revenue section of the statement of operations.

ST. CLAIR REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
Notes to Financial Statements
Year Ended December 31, 2014

6. INVESTMENTS

Marketable securities are shown below. Long term investments are comprised of member shares in Libro Financial Group and are reported at their fair value of \$38,605, (2013 - \$38,266).

	Cost	2014 Fair Value	Cost	2013 Fair Value
Corporate debt securities	\$ 1,325,320	\$ 1,364,238	\$ 1,855,618	\$ 2,001,807
Mutual funds	670,943	671,285	2,949	3,042
Provincial debt securities	17,997	27,907	17,997	25,122
	\$ 2,014,260	\$ 2,063,430	\$ 1,876,564	\$ 2,029,971

Income from investments has been included in interest in the other revenue section of the Statement of Operations. The interest rates on these investments range from 1.15% to 2.4%, with the total interest earned during the year of \$32,131 (2013- \$52,684).

7. RESTRICTED ASSETS

	2014	2013
Forestry reserve fund cash	\$ 11,713	\$ 11,683
Parks Commission reserve fund cash	-	20,631
Due to stewardship programs cash	275,940	414,111
	\$ 287,653	\$ 446,425

ST. CLAIR REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
Notes to Financial Statements
Year Ended December 31, 2014

8. RESERVES AND RESERVE FUNDS

1. Forestry reserve fund

This reserve has been set aside to assist the Authority's forestry program with certain restrictions for its use.

2. Parks commission reserve fund

This reserve fund represents funds set aside for commitments under agreement from the dissolution of the St. Clair Parks Commission. Management has advised that the commitments came to an end December 31, 2013 and the reserve will be transferred into the administration reserve during 2014.

3. General conservation areas reserve

This reserve is to assist with the capital refurbishing or capital development of regional conservation areas.

4. Vehicles and equipment reserve

This reserve is used for vehicle and equipment operations, maintenance and replacement.

5. Administration centre reserve

This reserve is established to support maintenance and capital requirements of the administration centre and its associated property.

6. Land management reserve

This reserve is established to support the acquisition, development and operation of natural heritage features such as forests, wetlands, meadows, lakes and streams including use of these features by the public.

7. Conservation services reserve

The Authority has long-term contracts with land owners for vegetation control in plantations. This reserve has been set up to help offset future costs.

8. Coldstream remedial reserve

This reserve is comprised of a court award in the amount of \$10,000 identified for remedial work upstream of the Coldstream Reservoir less actual expenditures on remedial work.

9. McKeough property management reserve

This reserve is comprised of accumulated surpluses from management of the McKeough lands. Funds from this reserve are used for management and maintenance of the McKeough upstream floodway in excess of 2,000 acres.

10. Resource awareness reserve

(continues)

ST. CLAIR REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
Notes to Financial Statements
Year Ended December 31, 2014

8. RESERVES AND RESERVE FUNDS *(continued)*

This reserve has been created from donations and is to be used to support the Authority's resource awareness program.

11. Property sales reserve

This reserve is set up from proceeds received on the sale of the Authority's land. The province has allowed the Authority to keep these funds in a reserve.

12. Insurance reserve

The Authority has increased the property insurance deductible to \$10,000, thereby reducing the insurance premiums and assuming increased risk. This reserve has been established to assist with insurance losses.

13. Planning reserve

This reserve is to assist with unexpected legal fees, consulting fees, staff requirements, etc. when required to defend the Authority's development, interference with wetlands and alterations to shorelines' watercourse regulations, as well as other related unexpected planning matters, which may require funds.

14. Oil and gas reserve

This reserve of Provincial funds maintained by the Authority has been created from oil and gas royalties and long-term leases on deposits located on the Authority's land.

9. STEWARDSHIP PROGRAMS

The Authority provides accounting and administrative services on behalf of The Middlesex Rural Resource Committee. Revenues received are restricted for Committee use only. Expenditures that have been approved by authorized Program Committee Coordinator(s) are paid by the Authority on behalf of the Committee. Excess funds are shown as Due to Stewardship Programs on the Statement of Financial Position.

	2014	2013
Due to Stewardship Program, opening	\$ 414,111	\$ 422,322
Receipts	56,481	100,615
Disbursements	(194,652)	(108,826)
Due to Stewardship Program, closing	\$ 275,940	\$ 414,111

10. PENSION PLAN

All of the full-time employees and some of the part-time employees are members of the Ontario Municipal Employees Retirement System. Contributions to the plan made during the year by the Authority on behalf of these employees amounted to \$221,818 (2013 - \$182,613) and are included as expenditures in the statement of operations.

ST. CLAIR REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
Notes to Financial Statements
Year Ended December 31, 2014

11. CAPITAL DISCLOSURES

The Authority's objectives when managing capital is to safeguard the Authority's ability to continue as a going concern. As the Authority is a not-for-profit organization, the objective is dependant on the support of all levels of government and other not-for-profit organizations through continued grants and levies. The Authority is not in a position to raise additional capital with share or debt issuance. The Authority includes in its definition of capital its cash, receivables and investments with the Authority's investment policy to invest its excess and restricted cash in interest-bearing investments such as government bonds and term deposits. In order to facilitate the management of its capital requirements, the Authority prepares annual revenue and expenditure budgets that are updated as necessary depending on changes in circumstances. The annual and updated budgets are approved by the Board of Directors. There were no changes in the Authority's approach to capital management during the year.

12. COMPARATIVE FIGURES

Some of the comparative figures have been reclassified to conform to the current year's presentation.

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ST. CLAIR REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

**Administration Expenditures
Year Ended December 31, 2014**

Schedule 1

	Budget (Unaudited)	2014	2013
Administration			
Equipment rental and purchases	\$ 34,000	\$ 9,029	\$ 13,808
Materials and supplies	18,000	21,849	24,292
Other	315,500	68,371	132,394
Travel expenses and allowances	23,000	9,135	23,540
Utilities	27,000	15,622	17,117
Wages and benefits	380,630	353,080	355,878
	\$ 798,130	\$ 477,086	\$ 567,029

DRAFT

ST. CLAIR REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Capital Development Expenditures

Schedule 2

Year Ended December 31, 2014

	Budget (Unaudited)	2014	2013
Capital Development			
Conservation area development	\$ 120,965	\$ 62,497	\$ 98,474
Vehicles and equipment	72,000	74,657	-
Water erosion control infrastructure	478,520	270,056	247,891
Other	19,200	47,289	158,421
	\$ 690,685	\$ 454,499	\$ 504,786

DRAFT

ST. CLAIR REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

**Operating Expenditures
Year Ended December 31, 2014**

Schedule 3

	Budget (Unaudited)	2014	2013
Community relations			
Wages and benefits	\$ 169,000	\$ 122,895	\$ 105,530
Other	20,450	22,457	19,304
Conservation services			
Wages and benefits	297,100	302,946	236,761
Other	860,624	378,536	403,327
Erosion control			
Wages and benefits	19,000	38,270	43,207
Other	92,000	23,230	158,472
Flood control			
Wages and benefits	282,300	256,807	215,791
Other	97,200	112,953	131,317
Flood forecasting and warning			
Wages and benefits	133,000	120,958	106,425
Other	44,350	39,274	60,005
General			
Wages and benefits	138,500	124,436	92,829
Other	39,180	51,389	27,687
Ice management			
Other	4,000	4,000	3,500
Planning			
Wages and benefits	330,000	291,912	198,058
Other	65,500	29,611	62,604
Source water protection			
Wages and benefits	185,000	287,557	320,332
Other	15,000	86,006	26,937
Technical studies			
Wages, benefits & other	221,827	209,700	193,370
	\$ 3,014,031	\$ 2,502,937	\$ 2,405,456

ST. CLAIR REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
Property Management Expenditures
Year Ended December 31, 2014

Schedule 4

	2014	2014	2013
Property Management			
Wages and benefits	\$ 115,000	\$ 165,397	\$ 202,206
Other	185,487	111,810	140,717
	\$ 300,487	\$ 277,207	\$ 342,923

DRAFT

ST. CLAIR REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
Conservation Area Maintenance Expenditures
Year Ended December 31, 2014

Schedule 5

	Budget (Unaudited)	2014	2013
A.W. Campbell - Wages	\$ 180,350	\$ 148,337	\$ 140,313
A.W. Campbell - Other	70,800	120,845	100,209
Clark Wright - Wages	1,000	-	920
Clark Wright - Other	1,350	2,600	11,680
Coldstream - Other	1,300	1,300	1,400
Crothers - Other	1,600	2,168	1,400
Dodge - Other	2,100	2,100	1,000
Henderson - Wages	151,100	138,386	130,080
Henderson - Other	106,200	125,359	110,297
Highland Glen - Wages	2,000	1,000	1,260
Highland Glen - Other	8,000	9,000	7,790
McEwen - Wages	2,000	3,950	1,490
McEwen - Other	10,200	12,780	9,810
McLean - Wages	-	12,521	-
McLean - Other	-	137,108	-
Petrolia - Other	900	900	900
Peers Wetland - Wages	-	19,588	-
Peers Wetland - Other	36,876	4,190	47,304
Shetland - Other	7,850	8,475	9,540
Sinclair - Other	500	-	-
Strathroy - Wages	11,000	8,785	11,836
Strathroy - Other	7,500	20,036	6,664
Tony Stranak - Other	8,000	8,000	7,900
Warwick - Wages	263,400	192,514	209,562
Warwick - Other	185,300	223,470	191,044
Wawanosh - Wages	2,500	2,500	1,454
Wawanosh - Other	7,000	7,000	7,348
	\$ 1,068,826	\$ 1,212,912	\$ 1,011,201

ST. CLAIR REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
Schedule of Tangible Capital Assets
Year Ended December 31, 2014

	Opening Balance	Additions	Disposals	Balance End of Year	Accumulated Amortization Beginning of Year	Net Carrying Amount Beginning of Year	Deletions	Amortization	Accumulated Amortization End of Year	2014 Net Carrying Amount End of Year
Land and land improvements	\$ 13,421,983	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 13,421,983	\$ -	\$ 13,421,983	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 13,421,983
Buildings, dams and related structures	21,401,577	-	-	21,401,577	15,191,374	6,210,203	-	427,943	15,619,317	5,782,260
Machinery and equipment	139,890	-	-	139,890	78,725	61,165	-	6,192	84,917	54,973
Motor vehicles	492,144	86,375	29,235	549,284	327,915	164,229	23,600	60,452	364,767	184,517
Furniture and fixtures	56,133	29,483	-	85,616	24,545	31,588	-	24,450	48,995	36,621
Computer hardware and software	212,148	41,802	-	253,950	124,251	87,897	-	44,396	168,647	85,303
Total	\$ 35,723,875	\$ 157,660	\$ 29,235	\$ 35,852,300	\$ 15,746,810	\$ 19,977,065	\$ 23,600	\$ 563,433	\$ 16,286,643	\$ 19,565,657

See notes to financial statements

Levy Voting Procedures

11. (i) & 11. (ii)

November 16, 2000

Approved

BD-00-156

Non-Matching Levy Voting Procedures

1. Prepare a list showing the directors' name, municipality and members' weighted vote from information prepared by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs.
2. Before calling for a motion on approval for the year's non-matching general levy call the roll.
3. Call for a recorded vote.
4. Each director has a vote weighted according to their apportioned modified Current Value Assessment. In the case of a director representing more than 1 municipality, that director will vote individually for each municipality they represent and each weighted vote will be based on the respective modified CVA weighting. Where there is a multi-member municipality, each member carries to the meeting the proportion of that municipality's weighted vote divided by the number of members appointed by that municipality. In the event that not all of a municipality's member(s) are present, the member(s) in attendance represent(s) only their proportion of the municipal weighting in the voting.
5. The final vote will represent a percentage of those voting yes versus the total modified CVA in attendance.

Example:

CVA weighted % voting yes	65.0050
CVA weighted % in attendance	75.0500

$$\frac{65.0050}{75.0500} \times 100 = 86.6200\%$$

6. The Policies and Procedures for the Administration of the Municipal Regulation for Non-Matching levy - Conservation Authorities Act - advises a weighted majority vote of 51% of those present will carry the vote.

Matching Levy

1. Matching levy is voted by majority vote by the Board members present.

Recorded Vote for Non Matching Levy

11.(i)

2015 Directors	Apport. %	For	Opposed
Betty Ann MacKinnon - Township of Adelaide-Metcalf	1.6688		
Frank Nemcek - Township of Brooke-Alvinston	1.5879		
Joe Faas - Municipality of Chatham-Kent	6.6482		
Jeff Wesley - Municipality of Chatham-Kent	6.6482		
Alan Broad - Township of Dawn-Euphemia	2.4498		
Kevin Marriott - Township of Enniskillen	1.7303		
Kevin Marriott - Village of Oil Springs	0.1988		
Gerry Rupke - Township of Lambton Shores	4.9046		
Dan McMillan - Township of Middlesex Centre	2.0763		
Diane Brewer - Village of Newbury	0.1520		
Diane Brewer - Township of Southwest Middlesex	1.1237		
John McCharles - Town of Petrolia	2.4383		
Muriel Wright - Town of Plympton - Wyoming	5.0718		
Larry Gordon - Village of Point Edward	2.3978		
Cindy Scholten - City of Sarnia	13.2536		
Andy Bruziewicz - City of Sarnia	13.2535		
Mike Kelch - City of Sarnia	13.2535		
Steve Arnold - Township of St. Clair	5.4696		
Steve Miller - Township of St. Clair	5.4695		
Tony Bruinink - Township of Strathroy- Caradoc	4.0940		
Norm Giffen - Township of Strathroy - Caradoc	4.0940		
Todd Case - Township of Warwick	2.0158		



2015 Proposed Budget

1. Quick Facts (pg. 2-3)
2. 2015 Budget Highlights (pg. 3)
3. 2015 Summary Budget (pg. 4-5)
4. 2015 Expanded Budget (pg. 6-7)
5. 2015 Levy Assessment (CVA) - Schedule "A" (pg. 8-9)
6. 2015 Conservation Areas Maintenance and Operation Budget - Schedule "B" (pg.10-11)
7. 2015 Municipal Funding Summary - Schedule "C" (pg.12-13)
8. 2015 Conservation Area's Capital Projects (pg. 14-16)

St. Clair Region Conservation Authority

Quick Facts

General:

- 17 member municipalities from Lambton and Middlesex Counties and the cities of Sarnia and Chatham-Kent (see member directory for full listing)
- 20 members on the Board of Directors appointed by municipalities (see directory)
- 14 watersheds - Sydenham River with its East and North branches, 13 smaller named watersheds entering Lake Huron, St. Clair River and Lake St. Clair.
- of the 36 Conservation Authorities in the province, the St. Clair Region ranks:
 - **9th largest in area (4,100 km²)**
 - **16th in population (151,420 within the watershed)**
 - **35th in general levy (\$3.22 per capita) in 2013**
 - **6th in receipt of provincial grant from the Ministry of Natural Resources**

Land:

- owns 4,200 acres of property
- manages another 1,340 acres for the County of Lambton
- manages 15 properties (800 acres) for our Conservation Foundation
- has 16 Conservation Areas including 3 regional campgrounds - 522 serviced campsites
- over 200,000 visitors to Conservation Areas in 2014

Water Management:

- has the largest flood control dam and diversion in the province (McKeough Floodway)
- 11 recreation dams at 8 Conservation Areas
- assisting Chatham-Kent with maintenance of nearly 20 km of dykes
- assisting Sarnia, Point Edward, St. Clair Township, Chatham-Kent in maintaining almost 10 km of shore protection and erosion control structures
- in excess of \$52 million invested in conservation lands and flood and erosion control structures

Planning/Regulations/GIS:

- provided technical and professional comments on over 500 municipal planning and regulation matters in 2014
- commented on provincially generated policy related to natural hazards and heritage features
- managing AOC St. Clair River program
- internal and external GIS computer mapping needs for Authority staff and partners

Education/Communication:

- helped over 10,000 children discover conservation through outdoor education
- work in partnership with over 100 groups and thousands of individuals who support conservation and environmental programs throughout the watershed

Biology/Research:

- science based research supporting Species at Risk, benthic water quality monitoring, groundwater monitoring, fisheries, municipal drain classifications

Forestry/Healthy Watersheds:

- planted over 3.4 million trees over the last three decades
- constructed over 100 acres of wetlands
- provides technical and professional services to municipalities for land management, erosion control, urban forestry, road side tree planting, private woodlot management
- provided \$2 million in grants to farmers and other landowners to implement Best Management Practices since 2000

Finances:

- 2014 Budget - \$6,242,159
- 2014 General Levy - \$658,935 to be shared by the 17 member municipalities

2015 Budget Highlights

We offer the following highlights for your information:

- General Levy for 2015 is \$701,455 to be shared by the 17 member municipalities
- Matching and Non-Matching Levy for 2015 are budgeted to be a \$42,520 increase from 2014 to be shared by the 17 member municipalities
- Provincial grants to Conservation Authorities support flood control, planning, administration, legal expenses and technical studies
- In addition, grants continue to be available for studies, inspection, major maintenance, minor maintenance and preventative maintenance of water and erosion control structures to protect significant investments made by the province and municipalities
- St. Clair Region has in excess of \$52 million (at time of construction) invested in flood and erosion control structures and lands
- Grants applied for in the business plan used to develop the budget
- However, the received grants may not be as indicated in the budget. Upon confirmation of approved grants, the budget will be revised to reflect those grants with the combined levy (matching and non-matching) remaining unchanged.
- Detailed budgets for each program or project are available upon request

SCRA Summary Budget - 2015

Proposed - November 2014

	2015 Proposed Budget	Provincial Grant	Provincial Grant Reserves
Flood Control Operations & Maintenance	\$ 568,950	\$ 246,000	
Erosion Control Operations & Maintenance	\$ 41,000	\$ 20,500	
WECI Capital Projects	\$ 320,000		
Source Protection Planning	\$ 200,000		
Planning and Regulations	\$ 427,600	\$ 15,000	
TS - Hazard & Flood Information Management	\$ 12,000	\$ 4,500	
TS - IPZ			
TS - Aquatic systems monitoring	\$ 173,800		
TS - Healthy Watershed	\$ 28,100		
AOC Management	\$ 177,500		
Conservation Services/Healthy Watershed	\$ 895,327		
MNR Species At Risk	\$ 210,124		
Recreation	\$ 1,099,700		
CA Capital Development	\$ 137,000		
Property Management	\$ 273,000		
Information and Education	\$ 210,900		
IT Capital	\$ 19,200		
Equipment	\$ 72,000		
Legal	\$ 1,000	\$ 500	
Administration	\$ 842,940	\$ 23,500	
Total CA Budget	\$ 5,710,141	\$ 310,000	\$ -
Employment Programs	\$ 220,000		
Stewardship Programs	\$ 150,000		
Total 2015 Proposed Budget	\$ 6,080,141	\$ 310,000	\$ -

SCRA Summary Budget - 2015

Proposed – November 2014

Other Grant/Program Funds	Matching Levy	Non Matching Levy	Special Levy	Revenues	Reserves
\$ 46,100	\$ 200,000	\$ -	\$ 41,000	\$ 35,850	
	\$ 20,500				
\$ 160,000			\$ 160,000		
\$ 200,000					
	\$ 15,000	\$ 150,180	\$ 45,000	\$ 131,500	\$ 70,920
\$ -	\$ 4,500	\$ 3,000			
\$ 3,500		\$ 33,000		\$ 137,300	
\$ 28,100					
\$ 177,500					
\$ 77,000				\$ 803,327	\$ 15,000
\$ 160,124				\$ 50,000	
\$ 3,000		\$ 13,230	\$ 83,020	\$ 1,000,450	\$ -
				\$ -	\$ 137,000
\$ 7,500				\$ 255,500	\$ 10,000
\$ 11,500		\$ 74,900		\$ 70,000	\$ 54,500
				\$ 19,200	
				\$ 72,000	
	\$ 500				
\$ 6,000	\$ 69,500	\$ 117,145		\$ 464,130	\$ 162,665
\$ 880,324	\$ 310,000	\$ 391,455	\$ 329,020	\$ 3,039,257	\$ 450,085
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 220,000	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 150,000	\$ -
\$ 880,324	\$ 310,000	\$ 391,455	\$ 329,020	\$ 3,409,257	\$ 450,085

SCRA Summary Budget - 2015

Proposed – November 2014

	Budget	Provincial Grant	Provincial Grant Reserve	Other Grant/Program Funds	Matching Levy
Flood Control Operations and Maintenance	\$568,950	\$246,000	\$0	\$46,100	\$200,000
Erosion Control Operations & Maintenance	\$41,000	\$20,500	\$0	\$0	\$20,500
Capital Projects	\$320,000	\$0	\$0	\$160,000	\$0
Source Protection Planning	\$200,000	\$0	\$0	\$200,000	\$0
Planning and Regulations	\$427,600	\$15,000	\$0	\$0	\$15,000
TS - Hazard & Flood Information Management	\$12,000	\$4,500	\$0	\$0	\$4,500
TS - IPZ	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
TS - Aquatic systems monitoring	\$173,800	\$0	\$0	\$3,500	\$0
TS - Healthy Watershed	\$28,100	\$0	\$0	\$28,100	\$0
St. Clair AOC Management	\$177,500	\$0	\$0	\$177,500	\$0
Conservation Services	\$895,327	\$0	\$0	\$77,000	\$0
MNR Species at Risk	\$210,124	\$0	\$0	\$160,124	\$0
Recreation	\$1,099,700	\$0	\$0	\$3,000	\$0
Capital Development	\$137,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Property Management	\$273,000	\$0	\$0	\$7,500	\$0
Information and Education	\$210,900	\$0	\$0	\$11,500	\$0
IT Capital	\$19,200	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Equipment	\$72,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Legal	\$1,000	\$500	\$0	\$0	\$500
Administration	\$842,940	\$23,500	\$0	\$6,000	\$69,500
Total CA Budget	\$5,710,141	\$310,000	\$0	\$880,324	\$310,000
Employment Programs	\$220,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Stewardship Programs	\$150,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Budget	\$6,080,141	\$310,000	\$0	\$880,324	\$310,000

SCRA Summary Budget - 2015

Proposed – November 2014

Non Matching Levy	Special Levy	Revenues	Reserves
\$0	St. Clair - McK Maint \$2,000 C-K- McK Maint - \$38,000, Arda - \$1,000	Oil & Gas Revenue - \$2,500 Carryforwards - \$35,850 Other Income - \$6,000	\$0
\$0	Samia - SECP \$13,000 Pt. Edward - PEECP \$2,000 C-K - Dres RetWalls&CECP \$500 Sarnia - SBECF \$2,000 C-K - Wallaceburg Walls \$1,000 Strathroy - StrECP \$1,000 St. Clair - Corrunna Ret Wall \$1,000		\$0
\$0	St. Clair - Cathcart Park \$160,000		\$0
\$0			\$0
\$150,180	All Municipalities based on General Levy Split \$45,000 (3D Mapping)	Fees - \$73,000 Carryforward - \$58,500	\$70,920
\$3,000			\$0
\$0			\$0
\$33,000		Carryforward \$137,300	\$0
\$0			\$0
\$0			\$0
\$0		Fees - \$406,000 Carryforward \$397,327	\$15,000
\$0		Carryforward \$50,000	\$0
\$13,230	Shetland - Dawn-Euphemia \$9,540 Wawanosh - City of Sarnia \$8,550 Clark Wright - Strathroy-Caradoc \$1,600 Bridgeview - Town of Petrolia \$900 Coldstream - Middlesex Centre \$1,300 Crothers - Chatham-Kent \$1,600 Stranak - Chatham-Kent \$8,000 Peers - Chatham-Kent \$1,150 Strathroy - Strathroy-Caradoc \$38,500 McEwen - Plympton-Wyoming \$10,980 Dodge - Lambton Shores \$900	Fees - \$979,000 Foundation - \$1,250 (Mclean) \$19,200 Carryforward PEERS - \$1000	\$0
\$0			\$137,000
\$0	\$0	Rental Income - \$185,000 County of Lambton - \$45,000 Carryforward - \$5,500 Revenue - \$20,000	\$10,000
\$74,900	\$0	Fees - \$20,000 Donations - \$50,000	\$54,500
\$0		\$19,200	\$0
\$0		\$72,000	\$0
\$0			\$0
\$117,145		Rental Income - \$12,000 Interest Income - \$65,000 Foundation - \$9,000 Allocated Admin Costs - \$60,000 Adimn Fees - \$53,500 Oil & Gas Revenue - \$57,000 Carryforward - \$207,630	\$162,665
\$391,455	\$329,020	\$3,039,257	\$450,085
\$0	\$0	\$220,000	\$0
\$0	\$0	\$150,000	\$0
\$391,455	\$329,020	\$3,409,257	\$450,085

Schedule "A"
 2015 Levy Assessment

Municipality	2014 Current Value Assessment (modified) in Watershed	2014 CVA Apportionment %
Township of Adelaide Metcalfe	\$ 346,974,033	1.6777
Township Brooke-Alvinston	\$ 326,493,830	1.5786
Municipality Chatham-Kent	\$ 2,739,470,190	13.2456
Township Dawn-Euphemia	\$ 505,645,240	2.4448
Township Enniskillen	\$ 355,691,445	1.7198
Municipality Lambton Shores	\$ 1,005,236,898	4.8604
Municipality Middlesex Centre	\$ 425,889,039	2.0592
Village Newbury	\$ 32,486,295	0.1571
Village Oil Springs	\$ 41,716,860	0.2017
Town Petrolia	\$ 499,484,350	2.4151
Town Plympton-Wyoming	\$ 1,037,364,357	5.0158
Village Point Edward	\$ 495,957,898	2.3980
City Sarnia	\$ 8,239,344,974	39.8381
Municipality Southwest Middlesex	\$ 232,361,219	1.1235
Township St. Clair	\$ 2,297,368,216	11.1080
Township Strathroy - Caradoc	\$ 1,685,066,728	8.1475
Township Warwick	\$ 415,524,811	2.0091
	\$ 20,682,076,382	100

2015 Municipal General Levy: \$42,520 increase over 2014

2015 Current Value Assessment (modified) in Watershed	CVA Apportionment %
\$ 346,558,003	1.6688
\$ 329,752,690	1.5879
\$ 2,761,220,575	13.2964
\$ 508,738,565	2.4498
\$ 359,333,515	1.7303
\$ 1,018,512,531	4.9046
\$ 431,169,537	2.0763
\$ 31,565,090	0.1520
\$ 41,293,760	0.1988
\$ 506,348,405	2.4383
\$ 1,053,233,878	5.0718
\$ 497,952,498	2.3978
\$ 8,256,926,385	39.7606
\$ 233,344,828	1.1237
\$ 2,271,684,115	10.9339
\$ 1,700,379,820	8.1880
\$ 418,613,479	2.0158
\$ 20,766,627,674	100

2014 General Levy	2015 Proposed General Levy
\$ 11,055	\$ 11,706
\$ 10,402	\$ 11,138
\$ 87,280	\$ 93,268
\$ 16,110	\$ 17,184
\$ 11,332	\$ 12,137
\$ 32,027	\$ 34,404
\$ 13,569	\$ 14,564
\$ 1,035	\$ 1,066
\$ 1,329	\$ 1,394
\$ 15,914	\$ 17,104
\$ 33,051	\$ 35,576
\$ 15,801	\$ 16,819
\$ 262,507	\$ 278,903
\$ 7,403	\$ 7,882
\$ 73,194	\$ 76,733
\$ 53,687	\$ 57,435
\$ 13,239	\$ 14,140
\$ 658,935	\$ 701,455

Schedule "B"

2015 Proposed Conservation Area Maintenance and Operation Budget -

	2014 Budget	2015 Proposed Budget	Special Levy
403- Shetland	\$ 7,850	\$ 10,600	\$9,540(Dawn-Euphemia)
404 - Sinclair	\$ 500	\$ 500	
405 - Wawanosh	\$ 9,500	\$ 9,500	\$8,550 (City of Sarnia)
413 - Clark Wright	\$ 2,350	\$ 2,350	\$1,600 (Strathroy-Caradoc)
416 - -Bridgeview	\$ 900	\$ 900	\$900 (Town of Petrolia)
417 - Campbell	\$ 251,150	\$ 255,650	
419 - Coldstream	\$ 1,300	\$ 1,300	\$1,300 (Middlesex Centre)
448 - Crothers	\$ 1,600	\$ 1,600	\$1,600 (Chatham-Kent)
455 - Peers	\$ 13,476	\$ 5,300	\$1,150 (Chatham-Kent)
458 - Warwick	\$ 448,700	\$ 457,700	
470 - Stranak	\$ 8,000	\$ 8,000	\$8,000 (Chatham-Kent)
472 - Henderson	\$ 257,300	\$ 265,500	
474 - Strathroy	\$ 18,500	\$ 38,500	\$38,500 (Strathroy-Caradoc)
485 - McEwen	\$ 12,200	\$ 12,200	\$10,980 (Plympton-Wyoming)
486 - Mclean	\$ -	\$ 19,200	
489 - Highland Glen	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	
493 - Dodge	\$ 2,100	\$ 900	\$900 (Lambton-Shores)
Total	\$ 1,045,426	\$ 1,099,700	\$ 83,020

Notes:

Regional Conservation Areas (A.W. Campbell, L.C. Henderson, Warwick, Highland Glen)

Local Conservation Areas (Shetland, Wawanosh, McEwen, Clark Wright)

In Town Conservation Areas (Strathroy, Coldstream, Dodge, Stranak, Crothers, Bridgeview)

Detailed budgets for specific conservation areas available upon request.

The areas are supported by employment programs, fundraising, friends of groups, St. Clair Region Foundation and grants programs from corporate and non-profit organizations.

Non-Matching General Levy	Revenues	Foundation	Reserves	Grant Seasonal Employment
\$ 1,060				
		\$ 500		
\$ 950				
		\$ 750		
	\$ 253,650			\$ 2,000
	\$ 4,150			
	\$ 457,700			
	\$ 264,500			\$ 1,000
\$ 1,220				
	\$ 19,200			
\$ 10,000				
\$ 13,230	\$ 999,200	\$ 1,250	\$ -	\$ 3,000

2015 Proposed Municipal Funding

November 2014

Schedule "C"

Municipality	2014	2015	2013/2014	2014	2015
	CVA Apport. %	CVA Apport. %	Increase or (Decrease)	General Levy	Proposed General Levy
Adelaide Metcalfe Tp	1.6777%	1.6688%	-0.0089%	\$ 11,055	\$ 11,706
Brooke-Alvinston Tp	1.5786%	1.5879%	0.0093%	\$ 10,402	\$ 11,138
Chatham-Kent M	13.2456%	13.2964%	0.0508%	\$ 87,280	\$ 93,268
Dawn-Euphemia Tp	2.4448%	2.4498%	0.0050%	\$ 16,110	\$ 17,184
Enniskillen Tp	1.7198%	1.7303%	0.0105%	\$ 11,332	\$ 12,137
Lambton Shores M	4.8604%	4.9046%	0.0442%	\$ 32,027	\$ 34,404
Middlesex Centre M	2.0592%	2.0763%	0.0171%	\$ 13,569	\$ 14,564
Newbury V	0.1571%	0.1520%	-0.0051%	\$ 1,035	\$ 1,066
Oil Springs V	0.2017%	0.1988%	-0.0029%	\$ 1,329	\$ 1,394
Petrolia T	2.4151%	2.4383%	0.0232%	\$ 15,914	\$ 17,104
Plympton-Wyoming T	5.0158%	5.0718%	0.0560%	\$ 33,051	\$ 35,576
Point Edward V	2.3980%	2.3978%	-0.0002%	\$ 15,801	\$ 16,819
Sarnia C	39.8381%	39.7606%	-0.0775%	\$ 262,507	\$ 278,903
Southwest Middlesex M	1.1235%	1.1237%	0.0002%	\$ 7,403	\$ 7,882
St. Clair Tp	11.1080%	10.9391%	-0.1689%	\$ 73,194	\$ 76,733
Strathroy - Caradoc Tp	8.1475%	8.1880%	0.0405%	\$ 53,687	\$ 57,435
Warwick Tp	2.0091%	2.0158%	0.0067%	\$ 13,239	\$ 14,140
				\$658,935	\$ 701,455

2014/2015 Increase or (Decrease)	3D Mapping	2015				
		Flood Control Oper/Maint	Erosion Control Oper/Maint	Recreation	Capital Development	Total Municipal Funding
\$ 651	\$ 751					\$12,457
\$ 736	\$ 715					\$11,853
\$ 5,988	\$ 5,983	\$39,000	\$1,500	\$10,750		\$150,502
\$ 1,075	\$ 1,102			\$9,540		\$27,827
\$ 805	\$ 779					\$12,916
\$ 2,377	\$ 2,207			\$ 900		\$ 37,511
\$ 996	\$ 934			\$1,300		\$16,799
\$ 31	\$ 68					\$1,135
\$ 65	\$ 89					\$1,484
\$ 1,190	\$ 1,097			\$900		\$19,101
\$ 2,526	\$ 2,282			\$10,980		\$48,839
\$ 1,018	\$ 1,079		\$2,000			\$19,898
\$ 16,396	\$ 17,892		\$15,000	\$8,550		\$320,345
\$ 479	\$ 506					\$8,388
\$ 3,538	\$ 4,923	\$2,000	\$1,000		\$160,000	\$244,655
\$ 3,748	\$ 3,685		\$1,000	\$40,100		\$102,220
\$ 901	\$ 907					\$15,047
\$ 42,520	\$45,000	\$41,000	\$20,500	\$83,020	\$160,000	\$1,050,975

St. Clair Conservation

Conservation Areas 2015 Proposed Capital Projects

Warwick Conservation Area

Warwick Road Replacement:

- Existing main access roadway has become unsafe do to stream bank erosion along the roadway
- Project consists of engineering, land securement and road construction costs
- Estimated cost \$75,000
- There should be sufficient carry forward revenue to cover most of this cost



Campsite hydro upgrade:

- upgrade 11 campsites with 30 amp hydro
- hydro to be replaced was installed in the 1970's
- new hydro upgrade to include new panel, underground and receptacles
- Estimated cost \$ 11,500.00

Upgrade roadways with gravel:

- Estimated cost \$5,000

Picnic tables and site indicators:

- Purchase 15 new picnic tables
- Estimated cost \$4,500

Upgrade WIFI system:

- Installation of new technology and fiber optic cable to accommodate the current demand within the campground
- Estimated cost \$ 4,000.00

Total capital cost for Warwick: \$97,000

L.C. Henderson Conservation Area

Reservoir weir improvements:



- Current weirs require repair as the concrete surface blocks are beginning to break apart exposing the underlying clay material
- Crossing to be improved with new wire concrete and gravel surfacing
- Estimated cost \$15,000

Pavilion Roof replacement:

- Main pavilion roof to be replaced with steel
- Facia boards to be replaced and covered with aluminum
- Estimated cost \$2,500.00

Upgrade roadways with gravel:

- Estimate cost \$5,000

Picnic Tables:

- Purchase 15 new picnic tables
- Estimated cost \$4,500

Total capital cost for L.C. Henderson \$27,000

A.W. Campbell Conservation Area

Hydro upgrade in Pool washroom building:

- propose to replace the existing 100 amp panel
- Estimated cost \$2,000

Upgrade roadways with gravel:

- Estimated cost \$5,000

Picnic tables:

- Purchase 15 new picnic tables
- Estimated cost \$4,500

Upgrades to conservation area entrance & parking area:

- Replace property line fence
- Upgrade parking lot post and cable
- Upgrade gatehouse signage
- Estimated cost \$ 1,500.00



Total capital cost for A.W. Campbell Conservation Area \$13,000.00

Total Proposed capital \$ 137,000.00



St. Clair Region Conservation Authority
205 Mill Pond Crescent, Strathroy, Ontario, N7G 3P9 (519)
245 – 3710 (519) 245 – 3348 FAX

stclair@scrca.on.ca

www.scrca.on.ca

member of



Conservation Ontario Website
www.conservation-ontario.on.ca

Staff Report

15.(i)



To: Board of Directors
Date: February 5, 2015
From: Brian McDougall, General Manager
Subject: General Manager's Report

☞ 2014 was a very successful year for the Authority. This success results from the diligent work of staff, the support of the Board of Directors and the partnerships forged with others enabling the Authority to provide a comprehensive watershed management program throughout the region. To all, we extend a sincere thank you.

☞ **2015 Proposed Budget**

The draft budget was forwarded to member municipalities in November. Changes based on carry forwards, year-end audit adjustments, etc. have been included in the budget but there was no impact on general levy from the 2014 draft budget.

- 2015 Budget Process
 - September 18/14 - Draft budget presented to Board of Directors – approved for circulation to municipalities for comment subject to inclusion of updated assessment values to be provided by the Province
 - November 9/14 – Proposed Budget circulated to municipalities for comment and use in drafting municipal budgets
 - November 13/14 – Proposed Budget and received municipal comments presented to the Board of Directors
 - December 11/14 – Proposed Budget and received municipal comments presented to the Board of Directors. Board requested that staff provide a report outlining the reasons for the proposed \$42,526 increase in General Levy.
 - February 5/15 – Executive Committee reviews and recommends the budget to the Annual General Meeting for approval
 - February 19/15 - Annual General Meeting and final budget approval
- Provincial Funding: the 2015 allocation for Provincial Grants to support Flood and Erosion Control Operations and Maintenance, Planning, Technical studies and Administration has not changed since 1997, (\$310,000 – annually). The province uses the Authority's business plan for funding consideration.

- The Authority 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.
- Questions regarding the reasons for the proposed general levy increase were brought forward at the December Board Meeting – Staff presented the background regarding the proposed increase of \$42,526 (6.4%) to the Executive Committee earlier this month and received unanimous support in recommending the proposed Budget to the Board of Directors at the Annual General Meeting – detailed information is available at the members request

☞ **Sign Concerns**

- Concerns regarding safety and liability have prompted the removal of “Brake for Snakes” signs that had been installed on Authority sign posts in St. Clair Township
- The signs were installed to advise drivers of the possible crossing / presence of snakes (including several Species at Risk) in an attempt to reduce the number road mortalities in this area
- Approvals had been obtained from both the municipality and Lambton County prior to the signs being added to the existing posts
- Staff will be reviewing options for some form of signage that will advise drivers of the possible presence of snakes for review at an upcoming Board meeting

☞ **Voting Procedure**

Procedures for voting on Matching and Non-Matching levy have not changed. However, a copy of the procedure is included in the package for your information and review.

☞ **Members Orientation**

An Orientation, open to all Board Members but focused on new members is scheduled for April 2nd at 10:00 am at the Authority’s Administrative Offices in Strathroy. Please rsvp to Marlene at 519-245-3710 x257 or at mdorrestyn@scrca.on.ca to confirm your attendance. An updated list of Board members and their contact information is attached for your convenience.

☞ **Municipal Presentations**

Staff are available, at your request, for presentations to council or committees on any programs and services of the Conservation Authority or Foundation. We would be pleased to address council on any issue of interest.

2015 Members Appointed to the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority

Adelaide Metcalfe	4	Betty Ann MacKinnon, 24394 Dundonald Rd., R.R. # 2, Glencoe, N0L 1M0	519-287-2699
Brooke Alvinston	4	Frank Nemcek, 2973 Ebenezer Road, R.R. # 1, Alvinston, N0N 1A0	519-847-5591
Chatham- Kent	4	Joe Faas, 368 Hughes Street, Box 977, Dresden, N0P 1M0	519-436-3208
Chatham- Kent	4	Jeff Wesley, 28750 Island View Road, Wallaceburg, N8A 4K9	519-436-3229
Dawn- Euphemia	4	Alan Broad, 4338 Garden Cres., Petrolia, N0N 1R0	519-784-0373
Enniskillen/ Oil Springs	4	Kevin Marriott, 5383 Shiloh Line, R.R. # 1, Petrolia, N0N 1R0	519-844-2307
Lambton Shores	2	Gerry Rupke, 6757 East Parkway Dr., Lambton Shores, N0N 1J3	519-243-3470
Middlesex Centre	2	Dan McMillan, 10365 Ilderton Road, R.R. # 2, Ilderton, N0M 2A0	519-666-1549
Petrolia	4	John McCharles, 284 Evergreen Trail, Petrolia, N0N 1R0	519-882-2455
Plympton Wyoming	1	Muriel Wright, 5174 Egremont Rd., Camlachie, N0N 1E0	519-899-2345
Point Edward	2	Larry Gordon, 9 Village Green Crt., Point Edward, N7V 4J3	519-336-8581
Sarnia	2	Mike Kelch, 324 Tawny Road, Sarnia, N7S 5J6	519-491-2245
Sarnia	2	Cindy Scholten 337 Shepherd Street, N7T 3J7	519-337-1203
Sarnia	2	Andy Bruziewicz, 665 Stonecrest Ave., N7V 2K3	519-332-2639
Southwest Middlesex/ Newbury	1	Diane Brewer, 5 Durham Street, Box 16, Newbury, N0L 1Z0	519-693-4914
St. Clair	4	Steve Arnold, 3256 Douglas Street, Wilkesport, N0P 2R0	519-381-7440
St. Clair	4	Steve Miller, 4238 St. Clair Pkwy., Port Lambton, N0P 2H0	519-677-5676
Strathroy/ Caradoc	4	Norm Giffen, 215 Riverview Drive, Strathroy, N7G 2G4	519-245-1100
	4	Tony Bruinink, R.R.# 2, 2550 Emerson, Mt. Brydges, N0L 1W0.	519-264-9750
Warwick	4	Todd Case, 556 Simcoe Street, P.O. Box 744, Watford, N0M 2S0	519-876-3942

**Member
Municipalities**Township of
Adelaide-MetcalfTownship of
Brooke-AlvinstonMunicipality of
Chatham-KentTownship of
Dawn-EuphemiaTownship of
EnniskillenMunicipality of
Lambton ShoresMunicipality of
Middlesex CentreVillage of
NewburyVillage of
Oil SpringsTown of
PetroliaTown of
Plympton-WyomingVillage of
Point EdwardCity of
SarniaMunicipality of
Southwest MiddlesexTownship of
St. ClairMunicipality of
Strathroy-CaradocTownship of
Warwick

February 12, 2015

15. (i)

M E M O R A N D U M :**TO:** All Directors**RE:** Invitation to Orientation Meeting

We will be holding an orientation session at the Administration Office on April 2nd from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. with a light lunch to follow. This will give you an opportunity to discuss Authority programs and projects with senior staff. While this is primarily intended for new members, all directors are more than welcome to attend. Please let Marlene know by March 30th if you would like to attend so we can prepare for the orientation and make lunch arrangements.

If you have any questions regarding the upcoming meeting or about the Authority, please give me a call. Our toll free number is 1-866-505-3710. We have an exciting year ahead and look forward to your contribution. We look forward to meeting you on February 19th in Courtright.



Brian McDougall
General Manager
: md

Staff Report

To: Board of Directors – AGM Report 2015 15.(ii)
 Date: February 10, 2015
 From: Steve Clark, Water Resources Specialist
 Subject: Current Watershed and Lake Level Conditions



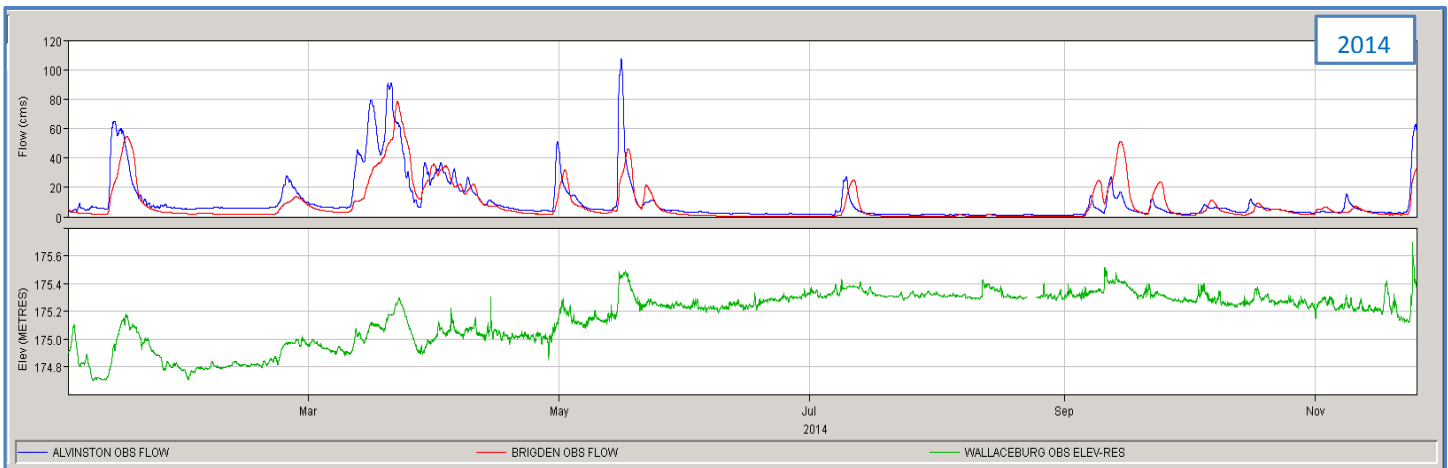
Watershed Precipitation and Streamflow Conditions

- 2014 saw a total of eight bulletins issued with six **Flood Watches** and two **Watershed Conditions Statements**. Intermediate periods resulted in a return to average levels throughout in the summer and into the fall period.
- Flows at Wallaceburg increased seasonally ending higher than 2013 with a significant response to an event in late November prior to freezing in late December and into January

Highlights:

- Slightly below average flow conditions into 2015
- Very dry December with 30% normal precipitation
- Late snowpack conditions began in January
- Lake levels continue to improve over 2013/2014

Fig 1. Annual Station Flow Comparison – (Alvinston/Brigden/Wallaceburg)



- Trends in Wallaceburg (fig 1) suggest higher than average flow conditions by 20cm over the summer compared to last two years however there were no significant events extreme events in 2014 when compared with long term data.
- Current levels reported at all stations are generally slightly below seasonal normal possibly due to late snow pack conditions and a very dry December.

Fig 2. Current river levels compared to period of record average (SCRCA January data)

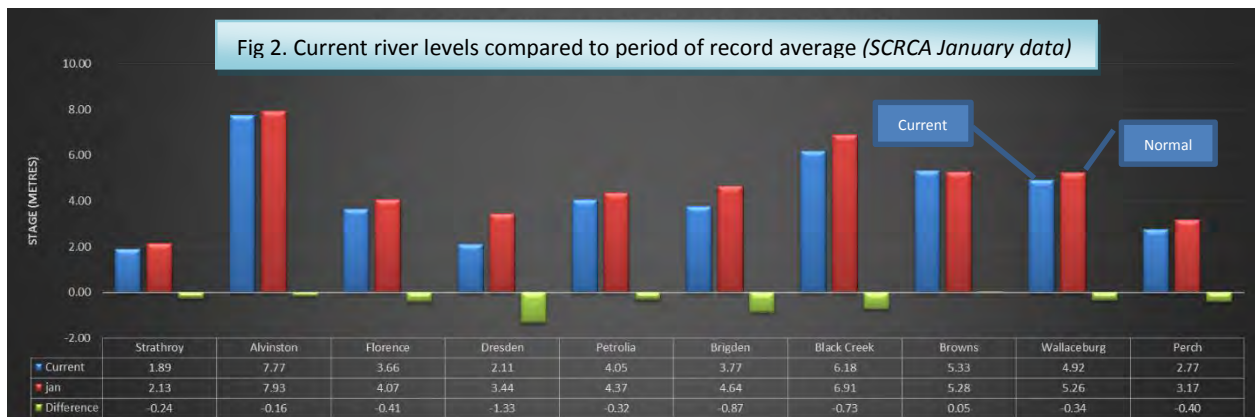


Fig 3. Regional Precipitation 2014 Summary (Source: SCRCA)

Precipitation (mm)	Sarnia		Strathroy		London		Windsor	
Last Quarter	Actual	Normal	Actual	Normal	Actual	Normal	Actual	Normal
December	39.2	68	28.8	92.4	29.9	88.6	21.8	74.7
November	37.5	76.4	54.6	94.5	72.5	91.1	51.1	75.5
October	40.2	66	73.6	70.8	57.1	77.6	76.2	64.9
Averages								
last 3 month totals	116.9	210.4	157	257.7	159.5	257.3	149.1	215.1
last 3 month % of normal	55.6%		60.9%		62.0%		69.3%	
regional average	61.9%							
last 6 month totals	369.9	455.6	505.5	501.3	439	522.5	502.1	472.8
last 6 month % of normal	81.2%		100.8%		84.0%		106.2%	
regional average	93.1%							
last 12 month totals	753.9	846.8	876.7	945.1	835.8	987	1034.3	918.4
last 12 month % of normal	89.0%		92.8%		84.7%		112.6%	
regional average	94.8%							

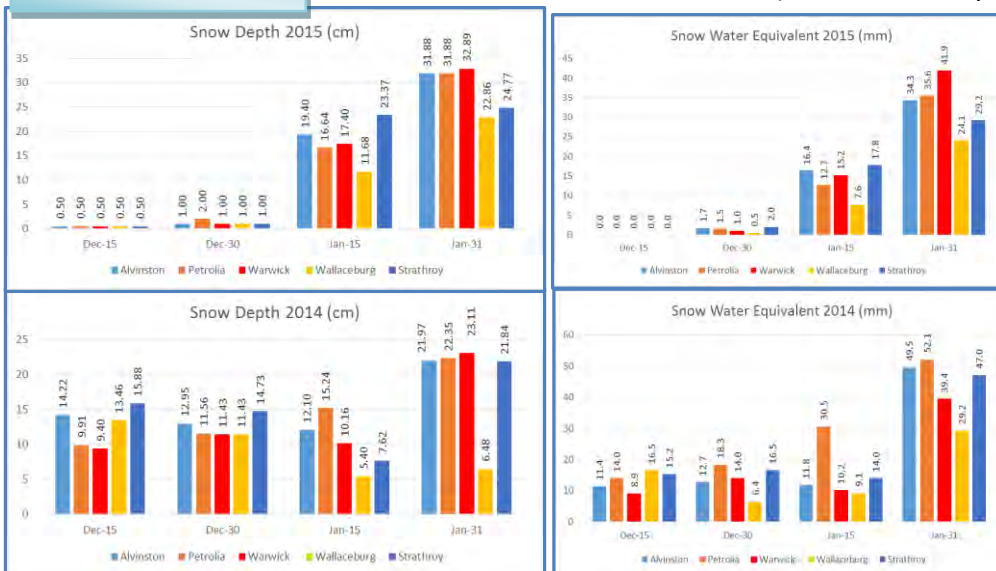
- While precipitation numbers were moving toward a predicted yearly average of 100% near the end of 2014, December turn out to be a very dry month with only **30%** of the normal precipitation (fig 3)
- Subsequently, 2014 will end with a regional annual deficit of **5.2%** of normal which may possibly impact slightly on water reserves into 2015. Conditions have improved to near average in January

Flood Threat

With reduced precipitation conditions have since stabilized to below average flows in the watershed. With the retention of snowpack and colder temperatures into January it is anticipated that any new precipitation will likely fall and accumulate as snow and may reducing the impact of weather events moving into the winter months. Seasonal snow surveys commenced November 15th with little or no snow coverage until early January (fig 4) when lake effect snowfall dominated and continued over the region. A comparison with 2014 identifies

Fig 4. Snow Conditions (Source: SCRCA)

the late arrival of snow in 2015. (Snow water equivalent is used to determine the



equivalent amount of water should the snowpack melt). River ice conditions can vary across the watershed but are now consistently frozen in most areas with six to ten inches of solid ice. The St. Clair River has significant areas of pack ice with some open areas close to the shoreline (fig 5). The overall ice conditions will continue to be assessed into February with on-ice surveys.

Fig 5. St. Clair River – Feb 2015

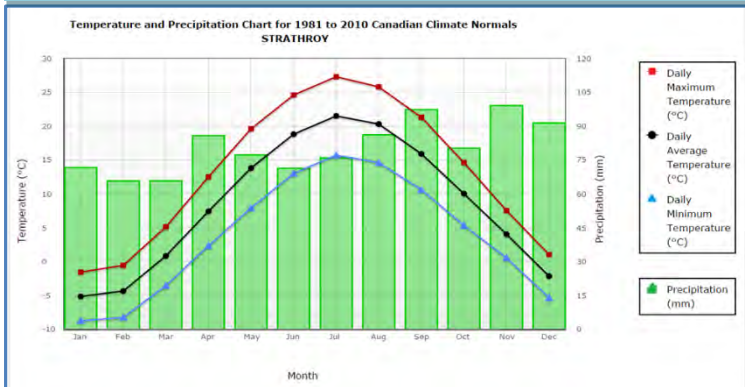


In addition, all snow and river ice conditions will be monitored into early 2015 to provide a comprehensive watershed conditions assessment in anticipation of the spring freshet period. These changing conditions are carefully monitored to assess potential localized flood situations as we move into the winter months. Advisories will continue to be provided as watershed conditions dictate.

Weather Forecast (Data: Weather Network, Environment Canada) Environment Canada (EC) and the Climate Prediction

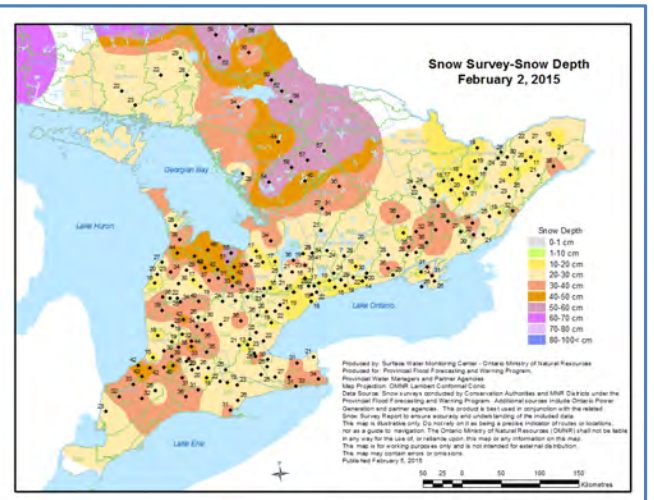
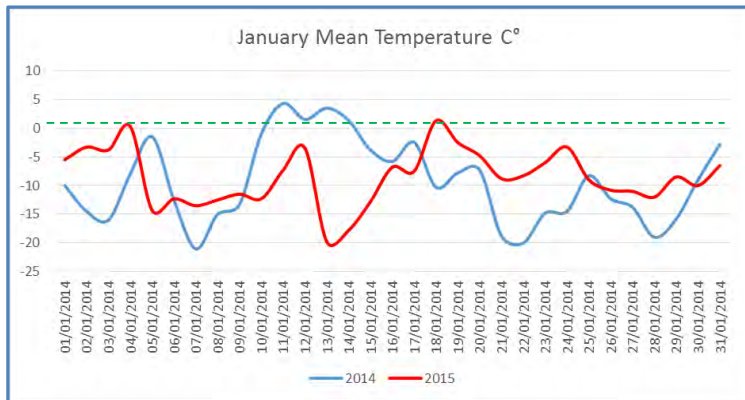
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Below average temperatures (2°C) and precipitation for the month
Winter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Slightly below normal temperatures and precipitation are expected into the winter season
12 Month Outlook Summary	

Fig 6 and 7. Long Term Averages



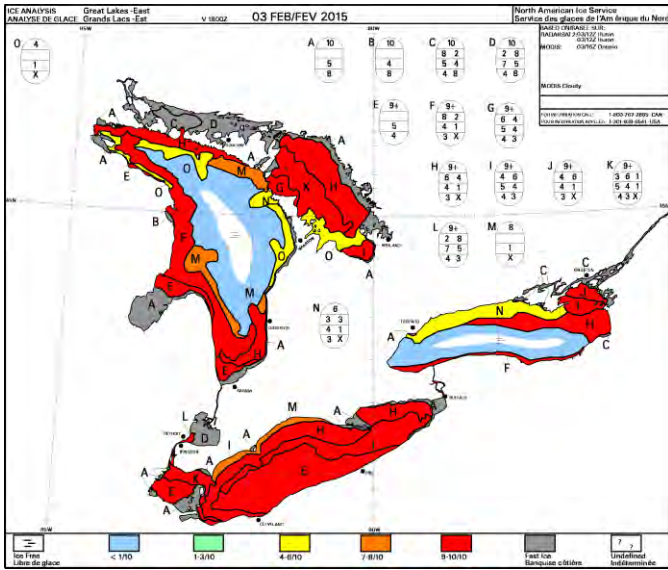
Center (CPC) continue to forecast below normal temperatures into February. By comparison with long term averages (fig 6) temperatures were significantly below the average of -5°C for extended periods in January (fig 8). Current provincial snow conditions have changed significantly since the beginning of January with extensive snowfall remaining on the ground in the latter part of the month.

Fig 8. Provincial Snow Distribution –February 2, 2015 (Source: MNR/F Data)



Great Lakes Levels (Canadian Hydrometric Service – December 2014)

Fig 8. Current Great Lakes Ice Conditions (NA Ice Service)



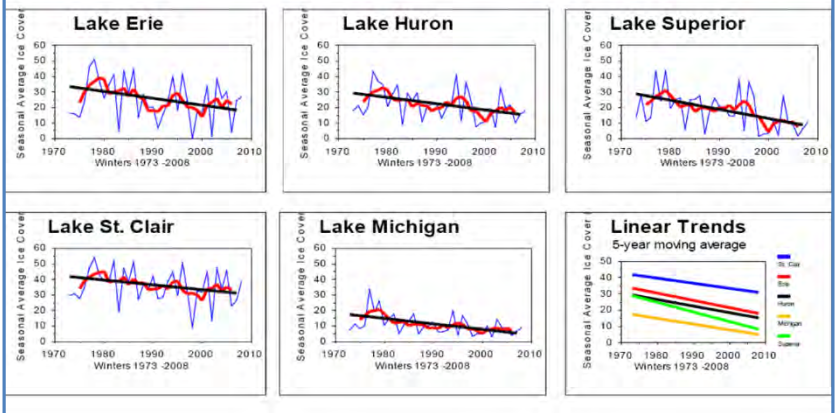
The monthly comparison for December 2014 lake levels continued to improve significantly compared to 2013 in both Lake St. Clair and Lake Huron with an increases of **34cm** and **56cm** respectively. Lake Huron levels also continue to exceed the 10 year long term average by **60cm** although remain below the average for the entire period of record (96 years).

Great lakes ice cover will also continue to influence snow conditions in the leeward shorelines of Lake Huron. Currently ice continues to form across Lake Huron due to colder temperatures (fig 8). Full coverage of the lake will be highly dependent on temperatures considering the late start to the winter conditions. The reduction in

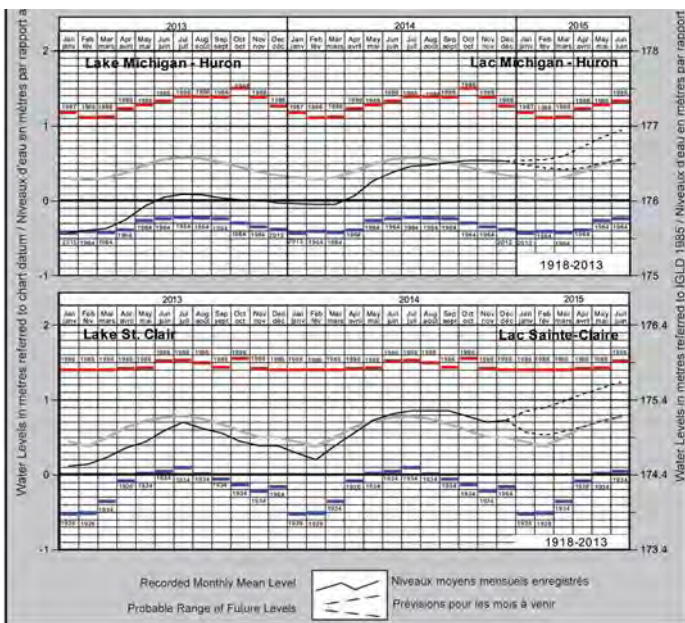
Fig 9. Current Great Lakes Levels (Canadian Hydrometric Service)

Units	Current Monthly Level	Monthly Level Last Year	Change 2013/2014	Current Month Avg for Last 10 Years	Change Current compared to 10 year	Anticipated Next Month	Average for Period of Record (96 years)
Lake St. Clair							
Metric (m)	175.13	174.79	0.34	174.78	0.35	175.13	174.98
Imperial (ft)	574.57	573.46	1.12	573.42	1.15	574.57	574.08
Lake Huron							
Metric (m)	176.53	175.97	0.56	175.93	0.60	176.55	176.32
Imperial (ft)	579.16	577.33	1.84	577.20	1.97	579.23	578.48

Reduction in duration & thickness of lake & river ice



open water in the lakes will reduce the impact of lake effect snow conditions later in the season. Recent studies into long term changes in ice conditions suggest a downward trend in lake ice coverage & thickness in the last 40 years.



Staff Report

15. (iii)



To: Board of Directors

Date: February 06, 2015

From: Girish Sankar, Manager of Water Resources

Subject: Water & Erosion Control Infrastructure (WECI) Projects

➤ We continue to wrap up several WECI projects that were approved for 2014- 2015.

Structure	Project Name	Description of Work	Total Project Cost (\$)	Grant Received (\$)
McKeough Dam	McKD-Hazard Tree Removal	Remove trees, shrubs and debris that have the potential to cause slope stability issues.	\$8,000	\$4,000
McKeough Dam	McKeough Floodway Berm repair	To repair a section of floodway that has a sink hole.	\$80,000	\$40,000
Cathcart Park	Cathcart Park Shore Protection Phase 4	Shoreline protection work to replace existing sheet wall with armour stones	\$300,000	\$150,000
LAWSS	Lambton Area Water Supply System Shoreline Repair	The protection will be a combination of new stepped armour stone, similar to the protection at the Point Edward Waterfront Park and the reinstallation of some of the existing concrete blocks.	\$600,000	\$300,000
McKeough Dam	McKeough Dam Drop Structure Repair	Repair several hairline cracks in concrete slab and barrier walls	\$60,000	\$30,000

Red – Complete, **Yellow**- Ongoing and **Green** – to be completed.

Cathcart Park Phase IV:

- Contract awarded to Wicks Construction
- A budget of \$300,000 has been confirmed for the project (WECI \$150,000; Great Lakes Sustainability Fund \$100,000; St. Clair Township - \$30,000, Ministry of Environment (COA) \$20,000)
- Construction work started second week of January 2015
- 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).
- Approximately 80 meters of Shoreline work will be completed in this phase
- Construction work will be completed mid February 2015 with restoration work planned for April 2015.
- This will be the last phase of construction at Cathcart Park.



Mckeough Floodway Berm/Culvert Repair

- Culverts along the floodway are starting to show signs of deterioration
- Picture below shows a sink hole formed at floodway
- Sink hole formed due to failing couplers that connect 2 pipe/culvert section
- Repair work was completed in January 2015



Replacing
42 inch
culvert
east
of
Baseline
Road
along
the
McKeough
Floodway.

LAWSS Shoreline Repair

- Contract awarded to AMICO Construction
- Repair work started on January 26, 2015
50 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).
- Approximately 280 meters of Shoreline work will be repaired in this work
- Construction work will be completed by April 2015.



Removal of concrete blocks along the LAWSS shoreline. Amourstones will be placed along the toe of the revetment and the concrete blocks will be reused.

January 31, 2015

TO: SCRCA Chair and Board of Directors

SUBJECT: Administration – Section 28 Status Report – Development, Interference of Wetlands and Alteration to Shorelines and Watercourses Regulation

FROM: Dallas Cundick, Environmental Planner / Regulations Officer

A summary of staff activity related to the Conservation Authority's *Development, Interference of Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses Regulation* (Ontario Regulation 171/06 under Ontario Regulation 97/04) is presented below. This report covers the period from November 1, 2014 to January 31, 2015.

November 1, 2014 to November 30, 2014

FA #	Applicant and Subject Property	Permit Required to:	Section 28 of the Conservation Authority's Act "Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines & Watercourses" Regulation Permissions may be granted where in the opinion of the CA, the control of Flooding, Erosion, Dynamic Beach, Pollution, or the Conservation of Land will not be affected by the development.	Date Permit Issued
10963	Travis Bouma 760 Tudor Close West Lot 61, Concession 9 Geographic Township of Sarnia County of Lambton	Construction of a New Detached 3-car Garage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed works meet SCRCA Shoreline Policy • Does not create greater risk to hazard/or precedent on street/reach of shoreline; • Proposed garage is located outside shoreline area 2; • Proposed works will not aggravate erosion; • Works do not increase the risk to life and property; 	Nov. 12
10965	Earl Towell 294 East River Road Lot 13, Concession 6 Geographic Township of Sombra Township of St. Clair	Tear down and Rebuild New Single Family Dwelling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum required flood elevations are a condition of the permit; • Proposed works will not alter flow velocities or elevations; • Proposed works will not increase erosion hazard; • Proposed works maintain a suitable setback from the watercourse (45m); • The finished grade around the foundation will be at a minimum elevation of 179.4m C.G.D. for a minimum horizontal distance of 2 metres from the external walls of the structure; • The lowest foundation opening be at an elevation higher than 178.4m C.G.D. • Disturbed areas will be stabilized and vegetated upon completion; 	Nov. 7
10966	Enbridge Pipelines Inc. 1010 Plank Road Lot Block B, Concession 0 Geographic Township of Sarnia County of Lambton	Replacement of Sending Trap for Line 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replacement of existing infrastructure is considered minor works; • Appropriate mitigation measures have been developed and will be employed to control sediment and erosion; • Works to be completed within 4 months; • The proposed works will have no impact on flood flows or elevations; • No alterations to the slope or grade are required; • The site will be restored to its original, or better, condition upon completion of works; 	Nov. 7

10967	Plains Midstream Canada c/o Scott Ballantyne 2803 Kimball Road Lot 16, Concession 3 Geographic Township of Moore St. Clair Township County of Lambton	Integrity Dig	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verifying and repairing an existing pipeline is considered minor works; • Appropriate mitigation measures have been developed and will be employed to control sediment and erosion; • Work to be completed within 4 weeks; • Works will be completed during low water conditions; • The proposed works will have no impact on flood flows or elevations; • No alterations to the slope or grade are required; • The site will be restored to its original or better condition upon completion of works; • No in-water works are proposed; 	Nov. 7
10968	Union Gas Ltd. c/o Michelle Landuyt Lot 12, Concession 5 Geographic Township of Chatham Municipality of Chatham-Kent	Installation of Natural Gas Pipeline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pipeline crossings of a watercourse using the directional drilling method are considered minor works; • Entry/exit pits are a suitable setback from the banks of the watercourse; • Appropriate generic mitigation measures have been developed, and will be employed to control sediment and erosion; • The proposed works will have no impact on flood flows or elevations; • No alterations to the slope are required; • Suitable Drilling Procedures, Environmental Compliance, and Restoration Prescription are in place; • Disturbed areas will be reseeded upon completion of the works; 	Nov. 12
10969	Plains Midstream Canada c/o Scott Ballantyne 7713 McCreary Line Lot 17, Concession 3 GORE Geographic Township of Chatham Municipality of Chatham-Kent	Integrity Dig	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verifying and repairing an existing pipeline is considered minor works; • Works will be located greater than 19m from the watercourse; • Appropriate mitigation measures have been developed and will be employed to control sediment and erosion; • Work to be completed within 4 weeks; • Works will be completed during low water conditions; • The proposed works will have no impact on flood flows or elevations; • No alterations to the slope or grade are required; • The site will be restored to its original, or better, condition upon completion of works; • No in-water works are proposed; 	Nov. 12
10972	Union Gas Ltd. c/o Michelle Landuyt Lot 7/8, Concession 2 GORE Geographic Township of Chatham Municipality of Chatham-Kent	Installation of Natural Gas Pipeline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Entry/Exit pits are a suitable setback from the banks of the watercourse; • Appropriate generic mitigation measures have been developed, in conjunction with DFO, and will be employed to control sediment and erosion; • The proposed works will have no impact on flood flows or elevations; • No alterations to the slope are required, returned to existing conditions; • No increase risk to life and property, Pipeline may need to be maintained or moved in future; • Proper Erosion and Sediment Control will be employed and works will not adversely impact or aggravate erosion; • Suitable drilling procedures, Environmental Compliance, and Restoration Prescription are in place; • Disturbed areas will be reseeded upon completion of the works; 	Nov. 17
10974	Len Slipacoff	Construction of	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Works meet SCRC Lake Huron Shoreline Policy 	Nov.

	1962 Lakeshore Road Lot 32, Concession 9 Geographic Township of Sarnia County of Lambton	a Non-Habitable Gazebo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed works will not aggravate slope stability or erosion concerns along shoreline Proposed works will not increase susceptibility of landowner to risk to life and/or property; 	14
10975	David & Elizabeth Southcott 4916 The Moorings Circle Lot 49, Concession Front Geographic Township of Plympton County of Lambton	Tear Down and Rebuild New Single Family Dwelling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed works meet SCRCA Shoreline Policy; Does not create greater risk to hazard/or precedent on street/reach of shoreline; Proposed dwelling is outside the stable slope allowance 3:1 (run:rise) + 100yr RR; No alterations to slope are required, Proposed works will not aggravate erosion; Drainage will be directed away from the top of the bank of the shoreline bluff; Excess fill will be removed from the regulated area; Disturbed areas will be reseeded upon completion of the works; Works do not increase the risk to life and property; Shoreline Access for Maintenance is maintained (4.6m); 	Nov. 17
10976	Enbridge Pipelines Inc. c/o Amelie Poitras 1010 Plank Road Block B, Concession 0 Geographic Township of Sarnia County of Lambton	Integrity Dig	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Verifying and repairing an existing pipeline is considered minor works; Works will be conducted at least 10m from the open watercourse; All works will be completed within Sarnia Terminal; Appropriate mitigation measures have been developed and will be employed to control sediment and erosion; Work to be completed within 2 weeks; The proposed works will have no impact on flood flows or elevations; No alterations to the slope or grade are required; The site will be restored to its original, or better, condition upon completion of works; No in-water works are proposed 	Nov. 17

FA #	Applicant and Subject Property	Permit Required to:	Section 28 of the Conservation Authority's Act "Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines & Watercourses" Regulation Permissions may be granted where in the opinion of the CA, the control of Flooding, Erosion, Dynamic Beach, Pollution, or the Conservation of Land will not be affected by the development.	Date Permit Issued
10856 (a)	Suncor Energy Products Inc. c/o Mark Kozak Aberarder Line Lot 16, Concession 11; and Lot 23, Concession 10 Geographic Township of Plympton County of Lambton	Installation of Collection Line within Municipal Right of Way	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collector line crossings of a watercourse using the directional drill method are considered minor works; Entry/Exit pits are a suitable setback from the banks of the watercourse; Appropriate generic mitigation measures have been developed, and will be installed prior to the commencement of construction and be maintained throughout the works to control sediment and erosion; The proposed works will have no impact on flood flows or elevations; No alterations to the slope are required; Construction area will be restored to original condition and all debris will be removed offsite; Disturbed soils are to be stabilized and re-vegetated immediately after completion of the works; Suitable drilling procedures, Environmental compliance and restoration prescription are in place; 	Dec. 4
10856 (b)	Suncor Energy Products Inc. c/o Mark Kozak Cedar Point Line Lot 8, Concession 17; and Lot 8, Concession 15; and; Lot 9, Concession 11; Geographic Township of Bosanquet Municipality of Lambton Shores	Installation of Collection Line within Municipal Road Right of Way	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same conditions as outline under FA# 10856 (a) Collector line crossings of a watercourse using the directional drill method are considered minor works; Entry/Exit pits are a suitable setback from the banks of the watercourse and wetlands; Appropriate generic mitigation measures have been developed, and will be installed prior to the commencement of construction and be maintained throughout the works to control sediment and erosion; The proposed works will have no impact on flood flows or elevations; No alterations to the slope are required; Construction area will be restored to original condition and all debris will be removed offsite; Disturbed soils are to be stabilized and re-vegetated immediately after completion of the works; Suitable drilling procedures, Environmental compliance and restoration prescription are in place; Proposed works will have no hydrologic impact to the wetland 	Dec 4
10856 (c)	Suncor Energy Products Inc. c/o Mark Kozak Dolmage Road Lot 7, Concession 17 Geographic Township of Bosanquet Municipality of Lambton Shores	Installation of Collection Line within Municipal Right of Way	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same conditions as outline under FA# 10856 (b) 	Dec 4
10856 (d)	Suncor Energy Products Inc. c/o Mark Kozak	Installation of Collection Line	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same conditions as outline under FA# 10856 (a) 	Dec 4

	Douglas Line Lot 20, Concession 12; and; Lot 19, Concession 12; and; Lot 22, Concession 13; Geographic Township of Plympton County of Lambton	with Municipal Right of Way		
10856 (e)	Suncor Energy Products Inc. c/o Mark Kozak Elarton Road Lot 7, Concession 8NER Geographic Township of Warwick County of Lambton	Installation of Collection Line within Municipal Right of Way	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same conditions as outline under FA# 10856 (a) 	Dec 4
10856 (f)	Suncor Energy Products Inc. c/o Mark Kozak Elmsley Road Lot 2, Concession 15 Geographic Township of Plympton County of Lambton	Installation of Collection Line within Municipal Right of Way	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same conditions as outline under FA# 10856 (a) 	Dec 4
10856 (g)	Suncor Energy Products Inc. c/o Mark Kozak Fuller Road Lot 7, Concession 15; Lot 10, Concession 15; and; Lot 11, Concession 15; Geographic Township of Bosanquet Municipality of Lambton Shores	Installation of Collection Line within Municipal Right of Way	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same conditions as outline under FA# 10856 (a) 	Dec 4
10856 (h)	Suncor Energy Products Inc. c/o Mark Kozak Hillsboro Road Lot 19, Concession 11; Lot 19, Concession 9; Lot 19, Concession 12; Lot 19, Concession 13; and; Lot 19, Concession 14; Geographic Township of Bosanquet Municipality of Lambton Shores	Installation of Collection Line within Municipal Right of Way	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same conditions as outline under FA# 10856 (a) 	Dec 4
10856 (i)	Suncor Energy Products Inc. c/o Mark Kozak Hubbard Line Lot 21, Concession 15; Lot 24, Concession 15; and Lot 25, Concession 15; Geographic Township of Plympton County of Lambton	Installation of Collection Line within Municipal Right of Way	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same conditions as outline under FA# 10856 (a) 	Dec 4
10856 (j)	Suncor Energy Products Inc. c/o Mark Kozak	Installation of Collection Line	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same conditions as outline under FA# 10856 (a) 	Dec 4

	Kinnaired Road Lot 30, Concession SBC; Lot 5, Concession 11; and Lot 14, Concession 11; Geographic Township of Bosanquet Municipality of Lambton Shores	within Municipal Right of Way		
10856 (k)	Suncor Energy Products Inc. c/o Mark Kozak Oil Heritage Road Lot 16, Concession 12; Lot 15, Concession 11, and Lot 15, Concession 9 Geographic Township of Plympton	Installation of Collection Line within Municipal Right of Way	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same conditions as outline under FA# 10856 (a) 	Dec 4
10856 (l)	Suncor Energy Products Inc. c/o Mark Kozak Proof Line Right of Way Lot 12, Concession 14; and; Lot 13, Concession 14; Geographic Township of Bosanquet Municipality of Lambton Shores	Installation of Collection Line within Municipal Right of Way	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same conditions as outline under FA# 10856 (a) 	Dec 4
10856 (m)	Suncor Energy Products Inc. c/o Mark Kozak Thompson Line Lot 16, Concession 11; and; Lot 17, Concession 11; Geographic Township of Bosanquet Municipality of Lambton Shores	Installation of Collection Line within Municipal Right of Way	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same conditions as outline under FA# 10856 (a) 	Dec 4
10856 (n)	Suncor Energy Products Inc. c/o Mark Kozak Townsend Line Lot 7, Concession 8; Geographic Township of Warwick County of Lambton Lot 46, Concession SBC; and; Lot 81, Concession EOLR Geographic Township of Bosanquet Municipality of Lambton Shores	Installation of Collection Line within Municipal Right of Way	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collector line crossings of a watercourse using the directional drill method are considered minor works; • Entry/Exit pits are suitable setback from the banks of watercourse and wetlands; • Appropriate generic mitigation measures have been developed, and will be installed prior to the commencement of construction and be maintained throughout the works to control sediment and erosion; • Existing Grades and elevations will be maintained; • The proposed works will have no impact on flood flows or elevations; • No alterations to the slope are required; • Construction area will be restored to original condition and all debris will be removed offsite; • Disturbed soils are to be stabilized and re-vegetated immediately after completion of the works; • Suitable drilling procedures, Environmental compliance and restoration prescription are in place; • Works will maintain a distance greater than 30m from the edge of the wetland boundary 	Dec 4
10856 (o)	Suncor Energy Products Inc. c/o Mark Kozak	Installation of Collection Line	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same conditions as outline under FA# 10856 (a) 	Dec 4

	Uttoxeter Road Lot 24, Concession 13-14; Geographic Township of Plympton Township of Plympton-Wyoming County of Lambton	within Municipal Right of Way		
10856 (p)	Suncor Energy Products Inc. c/o Mark Kozak Wright Line Lot 19, Concession 9 Geographic Township of Plympton Township of Plympton-Wyoming County of Lambton	Installation of Collection Line within Municipal Right of Way	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same conditions as outline under FA# 10856 (a) 	Dec 4
10856 (q)	Suncor Energy Products Inc. c/o Mark Kozak Elmsley Road Lot 21/22, Concession 13/14 Geographic Township of Plympton Township of Plympton-Wyoming County of Lambton	Installation of Collection Line within Municipal Right of Way	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same conditions as outline under FA# 10856 (a) 	Dec 4
10977	Bell Aliant c/o John Peters Lot 6, Concession 15 (Sombra) to Lot 24, Concession 2 (Moore) Geographic Township of Sombra & Moore Township of St. Clair	Installation of Conduit and Fibre Optic Cable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pipeline crossings of a watercourse using the directional drilling method are considered minor works; • Entry/Exit pits are a suitable setback from the banks of the watercourse; • Appropriate sediment and erosion control methods have been developed, and will be in place prior to the commencement of the works; • The proposed works will have no impact on flood flows or elevations; • No alterations to the slope are required; • Suitable drilling procedures, Environmental compliance, and restoration prescription are in place; • Disturbed areas will be reseeded upon completion of the works 	Dec 2

January 1, 2015 to January 31, 2015

FA #	Applicant and Subject Property	Permit Required to:	Section 28 of the Conservation Authority's Act "Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines & Watercourses" Regulation Permissions may be granted where in the opinion of the CA, the control of Flooding, Erosion, Dynamic Beach, Pollution, or the Conservation of Land will not be affected by the development.	Date Permit Issued
10957 (a)	Suncor Energy Products Inc. c/o Mark Kozak Cornelius J.M., Patti Lynn, & Darcy Glen Vanderboer Lot 20, Concession 10 Geographic Township of Bosanquet Municipality of Lambton Shores	Installation of Collection Lines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriate generic mitigation measures have been developed, and will be installed prior to the commencement of construction and be maintained throughout the works to control sediment and erosion; • Construction area will be restored to original condition and all debris will be removed off site; • Disturbed soils are to be stabilized and re-vegetated immediately after completion of the works; 	Jan 13

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Works will be completed as per Slope Stability Assessment completed by exp Services Inc. submitted in support of this application; • Existing grades will be maintained and therefore the proposed works will have no impact on flood flows or elevations; • That the collection line is installed no closer than 6m from the edge of the watercourse at its closest location; and; • No alterations to the slope are required; 	
10957 (b)	<p>Suncor Energy Products Inc. c/o Mark Kozak Simon Van Riel Lot 16, Concession 11 Geographic Township of Bosanquet Municipality of Lambton Shores</p>	<p>Installation of Collection Line; Construction of an Access Road</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collector line crossings of a watercourse using the directional drill method are considered minor works; • Entry/Exit pits are a suitable setback from the banks of the watercourse; • Appropriate generic mitigation measures have been developed, and will be installed prior to the commencement of construction and be maintained throughout the works to control sediment and erosion; • Construction area will be restored to original condition and all debris will be removed off site; • Disturbed soils are to be stabilized and re-vegetated immediately after completion of the works; • Existing grades will be maintained and therefore the proposed works will have no impact on flood flows or elevations; • No alterations to the slope are required; • Suitable drilling procedures, Environmental compliance and restoration prescription are in place; 	Jan 13
10957 (c)	<p>Suncor Energy Products Inc. c/o Mark Kozak David Vanos Lot 14/15, Concession 11 Geographic Township of Bosanquet Municipality of Lambton Shores</p>	<p>Installation of Collection Line via Horizontal Directional Drill</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same conditions as outline under FA# 10957 (b) 	Jan 13
10957 (d)	<p>Suncor Energy Products Inc. c/o Mark Kozak Stephen & Janet Marie Marilyn Yanchula Lot 15, Concession 12 Geographic Township of Bosanquet Municipality of Lambton Shores</p>	<p>Installation of Collection Line via Horizontal Directional Drill; Construction of Access Road</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same conditions as outline under FA# 10957 (b) 	Jan 13
10957 (e)	<p>Suncor Energy Products Inc. c/o Mark Kozak Magaret Jean Frayne Lot 15, Concession 13 Geographic Township of Bosanquet Municipality of Lambton Shores</p>	<p>Installation of Collection Line via Horizontal Directional Drill</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same conditions as outline under FA# 10957 (b) 	Jan 13

<p>10957 (f)</p>	<p>Suncor Energy Products Inc. c/o Mark Kozak Robert Stutt Lot 9, Concession 11 Geographic Township of Bosanquet Municipality of Lambton Shores</p>	<p>Installation of Collection Line via Horizontal Directional Drill; Construction of Access Road</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same conditions as outline under FA# 10957 (b) 	<p>Jan 13</p>
<p>10957 (g)</p>	<p>Suncor Energy Products Inc. c/o Mark Kozak Eusi Farms Ltd. Lot 5, Concession 13 Geographic Township of Bosanquet Municipality of Lambton Shores</p>	<p>Installation of Collection Line</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriate generic mitigation measures have been developed, and will be installed prior to the commencement of construction and be maintained throughout the works to control sediment and erosion; • Construction area will be restored to original condition and all debris will be removed off site; • Disturbed soils are to be stabilized and re-vegetated immediately after completion of the works; • Existing grades will be maintained and therefore the proposed works will have no impact on flood flows or elevations; • No alterations to the slope are required; • Suitable drilling procedures, Environmental compliance and restoration prescription are in place; 	<p>Jan 13</p>
<p>10957 (h)</p>	<p>Suncor Energy Products Inc. c/o Mark Kozak Eugen Burgin & Silvia Burgin- Schneebeli Lot 7, Concession 7 NER Geographic Township of Warwick County of Lambton</p>	<p>Installation of Collection Line via Horizontal Directional Drill; Construction of Access Road</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same conditions as outline under FA# 10957 (b) 	<p>Jan 13</p>
<p>10957 (i)</p>	<p>Suncor Energy Products Inc. c/o Mark Kozak Adrian John & Norio Vanderheyden Lot 23, Concession 15 Geographic Township of Plympton County of Lambton</p>	<p>Installation of Collection Line via Horizontal Directional Drill; Parallel Drain</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same conditions as outline under FA# 10957 (b) 	<p>Jan 13</p>
<p>10957 (j)</p>	<p>Suncor Energy Products Inc. c/o Mark Kozak Peter and Evelyn Irene Courtney Lot 22, Concession 15 Geographic Township of Bosanquet Municipality of Lambton Shores</p>	<p>Installation of Collection Line via Horizontal Direction Drill</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same conditions as outline under FA# 10957 (b) 	<p>Jan 13</p>
<p>10957 (k)</p>	<p>Suncor Energy Products Inc. c/o Mark Kozak Max Raymond & Fannie Gwendolyn Wellington Lot 22, Concession 14 Geographic Township of Plympton</p>	<p>Installation of Collection Line via Horizontal Directional Drill</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same conditions as outline under FA# 10957 (b) 	<p>Jan 13</p>

<p>10957 (l)</p>	<p>Suncor Energy Products Inc. c/o Mark Kozak Adrian John & Norio Vanderheyden Lot 21, Concession 14 Geographic Township of Plympton County of Lambton</p>	<p>Installation of Collection Lines; Construction of an Access Road</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No watercourse crossings are proposed; • Road will be elevated above flood cross sections; • Appropriate generic mitigation measures have been developed and will be installed prior to the commencement of construction and be maintained throughout the works to control sediment and erosion; • Construction area will be restored to original condition and all debris will be removed off site; • Disturbed soils are to be stabilized and re-vegetated immediately after completion of the works; • Existing grades will be maintained and therefore the proposed works will have no impact on flood flows or elevations; and • No alterations to the slope are required; 	<p>Jan 13</p>
<p>10957 (m)</p>	<p>Suncor Energy Products Inc. c/o Mark Kozak Herwig Wouters Lot 24, Concession 13 Geographic Township of Plympton</p>	<p>Installation of Collection Lines via HDD; Construction of an Access Road</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same conditions as outline under FA# 10957 (b) 	<p>Jan 13</p>
<p>10957 (n)</p>	<p>Suncor Energy Products Inc. c/o Mark Kozak Ronald Thomas Dagg Lot 22, Concession 12 Geographic Township of Plympton</p>	<p>Installation of Collection Line via HDD</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same conditions as outline under FA# 10957 (b) 	<p>Jan 13</p>
<p>10957 (o)</p>	<p>Suncor Energy Products Inc. c/o Mark Kozak Leo Harry Alphonse & Herwig Gary Joseph Wouters Lot 21, Concession 11 Geographic Township of Lambton Shores</p>	<p>Installation of Collection Line via HDD</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collection lines will be installed at a suitable setback from the watercourse; • Appropriate generic mitigation measures have been developed, and will be installed prior to the commencement of construction and be maintained throughout the works to control sediment and erosion; • Construction area will be restored to original condition and all debris will be removed off site; • Disturbed soils are to be stabilized and re-vegetated immediately after completion of the works; • Existing grades will be maintained and therefore the proposed works will have no impact on flood flows or elevations; • No alterations to the slope are required; 	<p>Jan 13</p>
<p>10957 (p)</p>	<p>Suncor Energy Products Inc. c/o Mark Kozak Leo Harry Alphonse, Gayle Marie & Herwig Gary Joseph Wouters Lot 21, Concession 11 Geographic Township of Plympton County of Lambton</p>	<p>Installation of Collection Line</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same conditions as outline under FA# 10957 (o) 	<p>Jan 13</p>

10957 (q)	Suncor Energy Products Inc. c/o Mark Kozak Brian John Verhoeven Lot 22, Concession 11 Geographic Township of Plympton County of Lambton	Installation of Collection Line	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same conditions as outline under FA# 10957 (b) 	Jan 13
10957 (r)	Suncor Energy Products Inc. c/o Mark Kozak Leo Harry Alphonse & Herwig Gary Joseph Wouters Lot 22, Concession 11 Geographic Township of Plympton County of Lambton	Installation of Collection Line	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same conditions as outline under FA# 10957 (o) 	Jan 13
10957 (s)	Suncor Energy Products Inc. c/o Mark Kozak William Bradley Douglas Lot 17, Concession 12 Geographic Township of Plympton County of Lambton	Installation of Collection Line; Construction of Access Road	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same conditions as outline under FA# 10957 (o) 	Jan 13
10957 (t)	Suncor Energy Products Inc. c/o Mark Kozak William Bradley & Monica Elizabeth Douglas Lot 16/17, Concession 12 Geographic Township of Plympton County of Lambton	Installation of Collection Line	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same conditions as outline under FA# 10957 (b) 	Jan 13
10957 (u)	Suncor Energy Products Inc. c/o Mark Kozak William Bradley & Monica Elizabeth Douglas Lot 14, Concession 11 Geographic Township of Plympton County of Lambton	Installation of Collection Line; Construction of an Access Road	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same conditions as outline under FA# 10957 (o) 	Jan 13
10957 (v)	Suncor Energy Products Inc. c/o Mark Kozak Terrance James Symington & Sharon Marie Helps – Symington Lot 15, Concession 9 Geographic Township of Plympton County of Lambton	Construction of a Wind Turbine; Construction of an Access Road, Installation of Collection Lines; Potential Ground and Area Disturbance as a Result of	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriate generic mitigation measures have been developed, and will be installed prior to the commencement of construction and be maintained throughout the works to control sediment and erosion; • Construction area will be restored to original condition and all debris will be removed offsite; • Disturbed soils are to be stabilized and re-vegetated immediately after completion of the works; • There will be no changes to existing grades or elevations; • No increased risk to life and property upstream or downstream; • The proposed works will not have an adverse impact on flood flows, velocities or elevations; and • Professional Engineer shall certify that the design has taken into account the 	Jan 14

		Turbine Construction	regulatory flood (velocity and depth of flow, hydrostatic pressure etc.) and site (soil type, bearing capacity, etc.) conditions encountered at the specific location of the development	
10973	Rural Lambton Stewardship Network 27032 Winterline Road Lot 11/12, Concession 13/14 Geographic Township of Dover Municipality of Chatham-Kent	Wetland Creation Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposed works will have no impact on flood flows or elevations; Proper sediment and erosion control measures, including best management practices will be utilized; That all work will be conducted in the dry and will not be conducted when flows are present due to local rain events, storms or seasonal flooding; That a minimum 100m vegetated buffer will be maintained between the work site and the St. Clair River; That if the disturbed areas in the work area have not been stabilized and unforeseen weather conditions are forecasted, straw bales will be broken and spread throughout the project site to stabilize the site; No in water work will be conducted; Extension of Cadotte Rex project (FA#10847) 	Jan 14
10978	Herbert & Phyllis McMahon Lot between 3396 & 3398 Schram Drive Lot 12, Concession Front Geographic Township of Plympton County of Lambton	Construction of a New Single Family Dwelling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed works meet SCRCA Shoreline Policy Does not create greater risk to hazard/or precedent on street/reach of shoreline; Proposed dwelling is outside the stable slope allowance 3:1 (run:rise) + 100yr RR; No alterations to slope are required, Proposed works will not aggravate erosion; Drainage will be directed away from the top of bank of the shoreline bluff; Excess fill will be removed from the regulated area; Disturbed areas will be reseeded upon completion of the works; Works do not increase the risk to life and property; Shoreline Access for Maintenance is maintained (5.50 m from the west side lot line, and 4.23m from the east side lot line); 	Jan 7
10979	Tim Moran 899 St. Clair Parkway Lot 46, Concession Front Geographic Township of Moore Township of St. Clair County of Lambton	Tear Down and Rebuild Pile Dock	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposed works should have no impact on flooding and/or erosion; The proposed structure is consistent with other docks in the area and does not project or encroach within the river channel in such a manner that it effects, aggravates or creates ice jamming or interferes with ice breaking activities; Watercourse flows will not be obstructed, restricted or otherwise negatively altered in any way by the placement of the dock and deck structures; The dock will not cause erosion of the bank of the St. Clair River and will be suitably attached to the bank of the river; There is no disruption to the watercourse bed other than within the immediate area of the proposed structure; There is no perceived impact on natural heritage features; Works are to be completed outside fisheries timing windows; Works to be completed within DFO specified timing windows for SARA 	Jan 7

10980	LanXess Inc. 1265 Vidal Street South Lot 33, Concession Front Geographic Township of Sarnia County of Lambton	Partial Demolition of Damaged LanXess Loading Dock	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed works should have no impact on flooding and/or erosion; No alterations to the shoreline or bank are proposed; There will be no grade changes and disturbed areas will be returned to original condition or better; Proper containment measures will be in place to ensure that any hazardous substances etc. are not transported to the river or adversely affected by flood and ice; Works to be completed by barge; 	Jan 6
10981	Enbridge Pipelines Inc. c/o Clair Fitzpatrick Lot 72, Concession Front Geographic Township of St. Clair County of Lambton	Integrity Dig – Pipeline 6B, MP 752.1103, MP752.8623, MP 752.9002	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Verifying and repairing an existing pipeline is considered minor works; No in-water works; Appropriate mitigation measures have been developed and will be employed to control sediment and erosion; Works will be completed during low water conditions; Works to be completed within the appropriate fisheries timing window; The proposed works will have no impact on flood flows or elevations; No alterations to the slope or grade are required; The site will be restored to its original, or better, condition upon completion of works; 	Jan 20
10982	Killam Properties Inc. c/o Michael Kabalen 7615 Oil Heritage Road Lot 15, Concession 13 Geographic Township of Plympton County of Lambton	Re-build Lagoon Walls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed works will not cause or aggravate slope instability; Proposed works will have no impact on flood flows or elevations; No alterations to the slope or grade of Aberarder Creek are required; Appropriate sediment and erosion methods are to be installed prior to the commencement of construction and be maintained throughout the works; Construction area will be restored to original condition and all debris/fill will be removed off site; Disturbed soils are to be stabilized and re-vegetated immediately after completion of the works; Works will be completed during low water conditions; The site will be restored to its original, or better condition upon completion of works; 	Jan 6
10983	Union Gas Ltd c/o Michelle Landuyt 5483 to 5573 Petrolia Line Lot 25/26, Concession 10 Geographic Township of Enniskillen County of Lambton	Installation of 550m of New Plastic Natural Gas Pipeline via HDD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pipeline crossings of a watercourse using the directional drilling method are considered minor works; Entry/Exit pits are a suitable setback from the banks of the watercourse; Appropriate generic mitigation measures have been developed, in conjunction with DFO and will be employed to control sediment and erosion; The proposed works will have no impact on flood flows or elevations; No alterations to the slope are required; Suitable Drilling Procedures, Environmental Compliance and Restoration Prescription are in place; Disturbed areas will be reseeded and restored upon completion of the works 	Jan 15
10984	Union Gas Ltd. c/o Beth Ortibus 10772 Base Line Road Lot 24, Concession 9 Geographic Township of Chatham	Abandon & Replace 1' steel main via HDD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pipeline crossings of a watercourse using the directional drilling method are considered minor works; Entry/Exit pits are a suitable setback from the banks of the watercourse; Appropriate generic mitigation measures have been developed, in conjunction 	Jan 15

	Municipality of Chatham-Kent		<p>with DFO, and will be employed to control sediment and erosion;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposed works will have no impact on flood flows or elevations; • No alterations to the slope are required; • Suitable Drilling Procedures, Environmental Compliance, and Restoration Prescription are in place; • Disturbed areas will be reseeded upon completion of the works; 	
10985	<p>Enbridge Pipelines Inc. c/o Clair Fitzpatrick Lot 26, Concession 12 Geographic Township of Moore St. Clair Township County of Lambton</p>	<p>Integrity Dig – Pipeline 6B, MP 753.4353</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verifying and repairing an existing pipeline is considered minor works; • A 5m riparian vegetation buffer will be maintained between the creek and the proposed works; • No in-water works proposed; • Appropriate mitigation measures have been developed and will be employed to control sediment and erosion; • Works will be completed within the appropriate fisheries timing window; • Proposed works will have no impact on flood flows or elevations; • No alterations to the slope or grade are required; • The site will be restored to its original, or better, condition upon completion of works; 	Jan 20
10986	<p>Enbridge Pipelines Inc. c/o Clair Fitzpatrick Lot Block B, Concession 0 Geographic Township of Sarnia County of Lambton</p>	<p>Integrity Dig – Pipeline 6B, MP 757.9990 and MP 758.0066</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verifying and repairing an existing pipeline is considered minor works; • No in-water works proposed; • Appropriate mitigation measures have been developed and will be employed to control sediment and erosion; • Works will be completed during low water conditions; • Works will be completed within the appropriate fisheries timing window; • Proposed works will have no impact on flood flows or elevations; • No alterations to the slope or grade are required; • The site will be restored to its original, or better, condition upon completion of works; 	Jan 20

<p>10852</p>	<p>Nick and Chantelle Core Proposed Dwelling Relocation/Redevelopment 4090 Bluepoint Drive Lot 39 and 40, Concession Front Geographic Township of Plympton County of Lambton</p>	<p><u>UPDATE March 31, 2014</u></p> <p><u>Board Hearing Decision Feb, 6, 2014:</u></p> <p>BD-14-017 MacKinnon – Faas</p> <p>That the Hearing Board, in accordance with the requirements of the Conservation Authorities Act, held a hearing regarding Nick & Chantelle Core, Application #10852 on February 6, 2014, and hereby approves the application as per Lot Grading Plan of Lot 46, Registered Plan 28(PY) Town of Plympton-Wyoming, County of Lambton, completed by Nisbet, Robertson, Drawing Number 13-234-C, dated September 3, 2013, conditional on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total square area (the total area of all floors above grade measured between the outside surfaces of exterior walls, including interior parking) is not greater than 164 sq. m; • The approval is based on relocation of the existing dwelling as per the application; • All other standard SCRCA staff approval permit requirements (i.e. proper grading/drainage, hazard on title). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notice of Decision sent to the proponents from staff of the SCRCA dated February 18, 2014; • SCRCA received correspondence from Patton Cormier and Associates dated February 25, 2014, addressed to The Honorable David Oraziotti, that their clients (Nick Core and Chantelle Core) hereby appeal condition #1 to the St. Clair Conservation Authority's approval of Application #10852; • Authority staff contacted lawyer Grant Inglis on February 27, 2014, and forwarded copy of appeal. Authority staff asked if Grant would represent the Authority on this matter; • April 3, 2014, the SCRCA received correspondence from Patton Cormier and Associates dated April 3, 2014, addressed to The Honourable David Oraziotti, noting that their office has contacted the office of the Minister of Natural Resources on at least four occasions in an effort to confirm that their appeal letter was received and to determine the status of the appeal. The letter went on further to say that to date, no one at the Ministers office has been able to assist them in this regard, and that it is imperative that they receive an answer to these inquires so that they may advise their clients as to the next steps in the appeals process; <p><u>UPDATE June 6, 2014</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • April 11, 2014 – SCRCA received Order To File documentation of the Mining and Lands Commissioner, Refer Our File CA 002-14; • April 16, 2014 – SCRCA sent formal letter to Grant Inglis asking that he provide written confirmation indicating that he can represent the SCRCA on File CA 002-14; • April 28, 2014 – SCRCA sent as per the directions of the Order to File, 2 bound copies of the application form and maps provided in support of the application outlining the basic details of the proposal, a copy of the refusal, as well as minutes of the Board of Directors meeting held on Feb. 6, 2014. The information provided contained all information provided by the appellant in support of their application; • June 2, 2014 – SCRCA received pursuant to the Order to File, the Appellants' Document Book containing a Summary Facts and other documents to be relied upon in support of this appeal from the Appellants lawyer Patton Cormier and Associates. • The covering letter stated that they understand from speaking with the Registrar, Mr. Pascoe, that a process is available whereby the Commissioner "mediates" resolution discussions between the Parties. They advised that the Appellants may be open to resolving this appeal by way of that process and requested further details in that regard.
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UPDATE September 4, 2014

- June 27, 2014 – SCRCA sent as per the directions of the Order to File, 2 bound copies of the SCRCA’s (respondents) document book containing the facts that the respondent admit, deny, allege, and other documents to be relied upon. As directed in the order to file, this information was forwarded to the appellant as well.
- July 2014 – During July and August SCRCA staff discussed via telephone with Daniel Pascoe, Registrar/Mediator, MLC, process going forward and process for mediation;
- July 10, 2014 – SCRCA staff met with Grant Inglis, Lawyer representing the SCRCA to discuss the case and options going forward;
- Both D. Pascoe and G. Inglis agreed that the SCRCA should request the Town of Plympton-Wyoming review the development proposal and determine the townships requirements and recommendation on what the Committee of Adjustment may approve. This is important to ensure that we do not end up going back and forth between all parties, but find what reasonable development that everyone can live with;
- July 25, 2014 – SCRCA staff sent request to Town of Plympton Wyoming Planner to review the development proposal and determine the township’s requirements.
- SCRCA has not received response from Planner at P-W to date (Sept 4, 2014). Upon receiving the response from the Town of P-W Planner the SCRCA can review and determine if there is a possible mediated resolution that is acceptable to all parties;
- August 26, 2014 – SCRCA received confirmation from Daniel Pascoe that a teleconference on Monday, September 22, 2014 at 10:00am is scheduled;
- Once the SCRCA receives the response from the Planner at the Town of P-W staff of the SCRCA can review and determine if there is a possible mediated resolution that is acceptable to all parties, and possibility of aligning policy/definitions with the Town;
- The Board acknowledges the Authority solicitor mediate the permissible area;

Update October 31, 2014

- September 12, 2014, SCRCA receives correspondence from the Town of P-W Planner;
- Key point of clarification is that the zoning by-law allows the house to have a 164 sq. m maximum gross floor area building area, which includes the floor space within the dwelling, but not the garage;
- Therefore, to align policy with the townships and keep consistent with Board Approved SCRCA Shoreline Policies and MNR Technical Guides the Authority could allow total square area of 190 sq. m. as outlined in the motion below, carried at the September Board Meeting;

BD-14-127

McCharles – McEwen

“That the Board of Directors reconsider the square footage of motion #BD-14-017.”

CARRIED

BD-14-128

Glen – McEwen

That the Board of Directors, in regard to Cores vs. SCRCA, MLC Refer Our File CA 002-14, direct staff and Authority solicitor to mediate a solution on the permissible development area acceptable to the SCRCA and all parties within the following limits;

- **maximum habitable square area (the total area of all floors above grade measured between the**

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • outside surfaces of exterior walls, excluding interior parking) not greater than 140 sq. m; • attached garage construction as per original application not greater than 50 sq. m; • total square area not greater than 190 sq. m.;" <p style="text-align: center;">CARRIED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • September 22, 2014 Staff of the SCRCA with SCRCA solicitor participated in a telephone conference with the appellants and their solicitor; • Discussion was on a without prejudice basis and Mr. Dan Pascoe attended on behalf of the tribunal; • SCRCA presented recent updates and proposal for mediation as outlined in above carried motion; • Discussion between SCRCA staff, solicitors, and Mr. Pascoe followed; • Solicitor for the appellants said they would discuss with clients and get back to solicitor for the SCRCA; • October 28, 2014 email correspondence between SCRCA staff and Mr. Pascoe stated that Mr. Pascoe had not heard anything from the appellants counsel other then they wanted a week reserved for a hearing should one be required; • Mr. Pascoe confirmed he reserved the week of November 24, 2014 for a hearing, if necessary; • SCRCA solicitor was away from work for several weeks, and is scheduled to return to work in early November. • SCRCA solicitor to look into the possibility of a conference call with the opposing counsel to perhaps work out a mediated resolution in the coming few weeks; • If a mediated resolution is not achieved the file will be going to a hearing; <p><u>Update February 5, 2015</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final negotiations is being completed by SCRCA solicitor as part of the Mining and Lands legal mediation process. As resolution is close in Commissioners office opinion, the Commissioner's office is strongly encouraging mediation resolution from both parties.
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ST. CLAIR REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY REGULATIONS ACTIVITY REPORT- VIOLATIONS AND CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

March 31, 2014

TO: SCRCA Chair and Board of Directors

SUBJECT: Enforcement- Section 28 Status Report – Development, Interference of Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses Regulation

FROM: Dallas Cundick, Environmental Planner/Regulations Officer

File	Background
<p>FV # 201501</p> <p>4664 Riverside Drive Lot E, Concession 5 Geographic Township of Sombra Township of St. Clair County of Lambton</p> <p>Notice of Violation Correspondence sent to landowner and agent via registered mail January 20, 2015, Correspondence outlined Authority Requirements to remedy the situation;</p> <p>Deadline for Action</p> <p>Statute of Limitations 2 years from date Authority made aware of violation;</p> <p>December 18, 2014 SCRCA met on-site with landowner;</p> <p>December 18, 2016 statute of limitations expires;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conducted site investigation December 18, 2014;• Unauthorized seawall construction works along the St. Clair River (inland channel) on the subject property had occurred in violation of Section 28 of the <i>Conservation Authorities Act</i>, as landowner did not receive approval to carry out these works;• Authority staff met with the landowner on December 16, and 18, 2014 and outlined Authority's role in hazard land management and reasons for concerns with the seawall construction works;• January 20, 2015 SCRCA staff sent correspondence outlining the required restoration works to ensure that seawall construction works and restoration is completed to the satisfaction of the Authority;• January 21, 2015 landowner contacted the Authority to confirm receipt of notice of violation;• Landowner to provide written correspondence to the Authority by February 13, 2015 indicating that they will remedy the situation as outlined above, and details on how this will be completed, and the date at which they will be submitting a complete application for the works undertaken with modifications to meet SCRCA policy with proposed timeline for remediation works;

Recommended and approved by:

Dallas Cundick, Environmental Planner/Regulations Officer

Melissa Deisley, Regulations Officer

Patty Hayman, Director of Planning

Drainage Act and Conservation Authorities Act Protocol (DART)
 (A protocol for municipalities and CAs in drain maintenance and repair)
Completed Files

Municipal drain November – December 2014 activity report associated with the provincially approved guidance “*Drainage Act and Conservation Authorities Act Protocol (DART)*” approved by the Board April 18, 2013.*

<i>SCRCA DART Files</i>			2014 November		
<i>FHR #</i>	<i>Municipality</i>	<i>Geographic Township</i>	<i>Drain Name</i>	<i>Project Description</i>	<i>SCRs Issued</i>
2454	Chatham-Kent	Chatham	Kirby Drain	Brushing bank slope, bottom cleanout	2
2458	Chatham-Kent	Dover	McGrail Drain	Bottom cleanout, brushing bank slope, brushing top of bank	3
2457	Chatham-Kent	Zone	Ryall Drain	Bottom cleanout, brushing top of bank	2
2460	Southwest Middlesex	Ekfrid	Government #1 Drain	Beaver dam removal	1
2456	St. Clair	Moore	Walton Drain	Brushing bank slope, bottom cleanout	2
2455	St. Clair	Sombra	Currie Drain	Brushing bank slope, bottom cleanout	2
2459	Warwick	Warwick	Archer Drain	Brushing bank slope, bottom cleanout, beaver dam removal	3

SCRCA DART Files

2014 December

<i>FHR #</i>	<i>Municipality</i>	<i>Geographic Township</i>	<i>Drain Name</i>	<i>Project Description</i>	<i>SCRs Issued</i>
2467	Chatham-Kent	Camden	Runciman Drain	Culvert replacement	1
2466	Chatham-Kent	Chatham	Adkin Drain	Culvert replacement, brushing bank slope, bottom cleanout	3
2461	Enniskillen	Enniskillen	Miller Drain	Bottom cleanout, brushing bank slope	2
2462	Enniskillen	Enniskillen	McMillan Drain	Brushing bank slope, bottom cleanout	2
2463	Enniskillen	Enniskillen	Trowbridge Drain	Brushing bank slope, bottom cleanout	2
2465	Enniskillen	Enniskillen	McCallum Drain	Culvert replacement	1
2464	St. Clair	Moore	McDonald Duncan Drain	Bottom cleanout, brushing bank slope	2
2468	Warwick	Warwick	McCallum Drain	Bottom cleanout, brushing bank slope	2

***Note**

These works and the above report are carried out and prepared by Biology Section staff followed by Planning and Regulations Section/ Regulations Officer ratification. Ontario Regulation 171/06 “Development, Interference with Wetlands & Alterations to Shorelines & Watercourses” applies, however the DART protocol is followed for streamlining purposes.

SCRCA Planning Activity Summary for the month **November 2014** 15.(vii)

File Ref.	Municipality	Geographic Twp	Lot	Concession	Street
ZBA 03/14	ADELAIDE-METCALFE	ADELAIDE	LOT 18	CON 5 SER	NAPPERTON DRIVE
LL 2014	ADELAIDE-METCALFE	METCALFE	LOT 1	CON 12	WALKERS DRIVE
VAR A05/14	ADELAIDE-METCALFE	ADELAIDE	LOT 27	CON 2 SER	HOEFNAGELS CRESENT
FI 2014	BROOKE-ALVINSTON	BROOKE	LOT 4	CON 10	PETROLIA LINE
LL 2014	CHATHAM-KENT	CAMDEN	LOT 10	CON 4 GORE	ROBINSON ROAD
LL 2014	CHATHAM-KENT	CAMDEN	LOT 10	CON 3 GORE	ROBINSON ROAD
SPA 2014	CHATHAM-KENT	CHATHAM	LOT 10	CON 1 GORE	MASON STREET
SEV B88/14	CHATHAM-KENT	CHATHAM	LOT 12	CON 1 GORE	BASE LINE
LL 2014	CHATHAM-KENT	CAMDEN	LOT 10	CON 3 GORE	ROBINSON ROAD
LL 2014	DAWN-EUPHEMIA	DAWN	LOT 16	CON 8	LAMBTON LINE
LL 2014	DAWN-EUPHEMIA	DAWN	LOT 16	CON 8	LAMBTON LINE
FI 2014	ENNISKILLEN	ENNISKILLEN	LOT 25	CON 7	SHILOH LINE
FI 2014	PLYMPTON-WYOMING	PLYMPTON	LOT 22	CON 7	EGREMONT ROAD
FI 2014	SARNIA	SARNIA	LOT 16	CON 8	MODELAND ROAD
GI 2014	SARNIA	SARNIA	LOT 16	CON 8	BERGER / MODELAND
OPA ZBA	SARNIA	SARNIA	LOT 46	CON 9	MODELAND / MICHIGAN
SEV B7/2014	SOUTHWEST MIDDLESEX	MOSA	LOT 9	CON 3	CPR DRIVE
LL 2014	ST. CLAIR	SOMBRA	LOT 29	CON 8	TULLOCH LINE
SEV B13/2014	ST. CLAIR	SOMBRA	LOT 15	CON 5	CHARLEMONT LINE
LL 2014	ST. CLAIR	SOMBRA	LOT 30	CON 9	MANDAUMIN ROAD
LL 2014	ST. CLAIR	SOMBRA	LOT 29	CON 9	TULLOCH LINE
LL 2014	ST. CLAIR	SOMBRA	LOT 18	CON 12	BENTPATH LINE
LL 2014	STRATHROY-CARADOC	CARADOC	LOT 1	CON 8	MELBOURNE ROAD
SUB 39T-SC1101	STRATHROY-CARADOC	ADELAIDE	LOT 23	CON 2 SER	SECOND STREE
SEV B09/2014	STRATHROY-CARADOC	CARADOC	LOT 10	CON 10	PARK STREET T
SUB 39T-SC-	STRATHROY-CARADOC	ADELAIDE	LOT 24	CON 4 SER	METCALFE STREET
ZBA 05\14	STRATHROY-CARADOC	ADELAIDE	LOT 22	CON 3 SER	SECOND STREET
EA-08-2014	STRATHROY-CARADOC	CARADOC	LOT 6	CON 3	
LL 2014	WARWICK	WARWICK	LOT 16	CON 2 NER	BETHEL ROAD

SCRCA Planning Activity Summary for the month **December 2014**

File Ref.	Municipality	Geographic Twp	Lot	Concession	Street
LL 2014	BROOKE-ALVINSTON	BROOKE	LOT 2	CON 4	COURTRIGHT LINE
FI 2014	BROOKE-ALVINSTON	BROOKE	LOT 4	CON 6	PARK STREET
FI 2014	CHATHAM-KENT	CHATHAM	LOT 1	CON 1	
SUB 39T-	MIDDLESEX CENTRE	LONDON	LOT 24	CON 11	
SEV 2013	MIDDLESEX CENTRE	LOBO	LOT 13	CON 4	EGREMONT ROAD
FI 2014	PLYMPTON-WYOMING	PLYMPTON	LOT 39	CON FRONT	HARRIS POINT DRIVE
SEV B1/2014	SARNIA	SARNIA	LOT 31	CON 9	LAKESHORE ROAD
FI 2014	SARNIA	SARNIA	LOT 50	CON 9	PULLEN ROAD
VAR A60/14	SARNIA	SARNIA	LOT 47	CON 9	LAKESHORE ROAD

EA 10 2014	SARNIA	SARNIA	BLOCK C 0		WELLINGTON STREET
LL 2014	ST. CLAIR	SOMBRA	LOT 24	CON 7	PRETTY ROAD
LL 2014	ST. CLAIR	SOMBRA	LOT 25	CON 12	BRIGDEN ROAD
LL 2014	ST. CLAIR	SOMBRA	LOT 26	CON 11	BRIGDEN ROAD
LL 2014	ST. CLAIR	SOMBRA	LOT 27	CON 11	SMITH LINE
LL 2014	ST. CLAIR	SOMBRA	LOT 19	CON 10	HOLT LINE
LL 2014	ST. CLAIR	SOMBRA	LOT 20	CON 12	PRETTY ROAD
LL 2014	ST. CLAIR	SOMBRA	LOT 15	CON 7	KIMBALL ROAD
LL 2014	ST. CLAIR	SOMBRA	LOT 20	CON 6	PRETTY ROAD
SEV B14/14	ST. CLAIR	SOMBRA	LOT 26	CON 9	TULLOCH LINE
LL 2014	ST. CLAIR	SOMBRA	LOT 19	CON 12	BENTPATH LINE
LL 2014	ST. CLAIR	SOMBRA	LOT 18	CON 12	BURNAM LINE
LL 2014	ST. CLAIR	SOMBRA	LOT 17	CON 12	BENTPATH LINE
FI 2014	ST. CLAIR	MOORE	LOT 3	CON 1	BICKFORD LINE
ZBA	ST. CLAIR	MOORE	LOT 26	CON 4	COURTRIGHT LINE
EA 09 2014	ST. CLAIR	MOORE	LOT 23	CON 10	
LL 2014	ST. CLAIR	SOMBRA	LOT 17	CON 12	BURNAM LINE
GI 2014	STRATHROY-CARADOC	CARADOC	LOT 6	CON 3	GLEDON DRIVE
ZBA 04/14	STRATHROY-CARADOC	ADELAIDE	LOT 19	CON 5 SER	PIKE ROAD
OPA	STRATHROY-CARADOC	ADELAIDE	LOT 24	CON 4 SER	METCLAFE STREET

SCRCA Planning Activity Summary for the month January 2015

File Ref.	Municipality	Geographic Twp	Lot	Concession	Street
GI 2015	ADELAIDE-METCALFE	ADELAIDE	LOT 21	CON 2 SER	
GI 2015	CHATHAM-KENT	DOVER	LOT 11	CON 11	ANGLER LINE
OPA 2011	CHATHAM-KENT	CHATHAM	LOT 1	CON 1 GORE	BLUEWATER LINE
GI 2015	CHATHAM-KENT	CAMDEN	LOT 5	CON 4 GORE	WALNUT STREET
GI 2015	CHATHAM-KENT	CHATHAM	LOT 1	CON 1	
FI 2015	LAMBTON SHORES	BOSANQUET	LOT 4	CON 19	IPPERWASH
VAR A1/2015	MIDDLESEX CENTRE	LOBO	LOT 1	CON 5	AMIENS ROAD
FI 2015	MIDDLESEX CENTRE	LOBO	LOT 1	CON 5	AMIENS ROAD
SUB 39T-	MIDDLESEX CENTRE	LONDON	LOT 25	CON 10	
SUB 2015	PLYMPTON-WYOMING	PLYMPTON	LOT 23	CON FRONT	BONNIE DOON ROAD
FI 2015	PLYMPTON-WYOMING	PLYMPTON	LOT 1	CON 1	BLUEPOINT DRIVE
SEV B18/2014	SARNIA	SARNIA	LOT 48	CON 9	LAKESHORE ROAD
VAR A62/14	SARNIA	SARNIA	LOT 64	CON 9	BEACH STREET
OPA ZBA	STRATHROY-CARADOC	ADELAIDE	LOT 24	CON 3 SER	METCALFE STREET
SUB 39T-SC1303	STRATHROY-CARADOC	ADELAIDE	LOT 24	CON 3 SER	SECOND STREET
SEV B1/15	STRATHROY-CARADOC	CARADOC	LOT 5	CON 3	GLEDON DRIVE

File Reference Codes:

CZ - Comprehensive Zoning	SEV - Severances	GI - General Inquiry	FI - Regulations Inquiry
ZBA - Minor Zoning Bylaws and Amendments	VAR - Variances	LL - Legal Inquiries/Letters	NM - Nutrient Management
OP (A)-Official Plan (Amendments)	EA/PLEA-Environmental Assessments	SP-Site Plan	PTTW- Permit to Take Water
TC-Tree Cutting	SUB-Subdivision	DAR-Development Assessment Review	SPA-Site Plan Approval

Meetings

November

Nov.14 – Source Protection Work Planning Team Meeting @ UTRCA – C.Durand
Nov. 14 – D. Baker, Rover Pipeline Project Preconsultation – D. Cundick, M. Deisley
Nov. 14 – Great Lakes Beach Association Conference, Toronto – D. Strang
Nov 18-19 – Latornell conference Alliston – P. Hayman, M. Deisley
Nov 19-20 – Latornell conference Alliston – D.Cundick

December

Dec 3 – CA Coastal Working Group at Halton – D. Cundick
Dec.8 – Middlesex Natural Heritage Study Final Meeting @ UTRCA – A.Seidler
Dec 3 – B. Loyens property Natural Heritage EIS – P. Hayman, M. Andreae
Dec. 3 – Canadian Remedial Action Plan Implementation Committee (CRIC) Science and Monitoring Subcommittee Meeting, Sarnia – D. Strang
Dec 5 – Ipperwash Beach inspection Regulation – P. Hayman, D. Cundick
Dec. 5 – M. Kozak, Cedar Point Wind Energy Project – D. Cundick, M. Deisley
Dec. 9 – Canadian Remedial Action Plan Implementation Committee (CRIC) Meeting, Sarnia – C. Lafrance, D. Strang, J. Jimmo
Dec. 9 – Friends of the St. Clair River (FOSCR) Meeting, Sarnia – C. Lafrance, D. Strang
Dec. 9 – Binational Public Advisory Council (BPAC) Meeting, Sarnia – C. Lafrance, D. Strang
Dec 10 – G. Inglis CA solicitor mtg re Cores Mining and Lands – P. Hayman, D. Cundick, B. McDougall
Dec 11 – Meeting Re: Wetlands on Ilderton Road - Norm Peel, John Fraser, and George Skinner – D. Cundick
Dec 11 – Aquatic SAR DFO Information Session, UTRCA – M. Deisley, K. Smith
Dec 12 – 4 CA Planning manual mtg @ LTVCA – P.. Hayman
Dec 16 – Saxonville Reg inspection re tree cutting – P. Hayman, M. Deisley

January

Jan 12 – Bear Creek Golf Course public mtg Strath-Caradoc Town Hall @ 6:30 pm – P. Hayman
Jan.14 – WOCA GIS Meeting @ ABCA – C.Durand, L.Atkinson
Jan 15 – Regs Committee meeting – P. Hayman, D. Cundick, B. McDougall, M. Deisley, G. Sankar
Jan 15 – M. Kozak, Cedar Point Wind Energy Project – M. Deisley, D.Cundick
Jan 16 – Plains Midstream Natural Heritage EIS site insp/mtg & Bonnie Doon sub tree removal/plan of sub agreement– P. Hayman, M. Andreae
Jan. 22 – Meeting with Environment Canada and Walpole Island Heritage Centre, Walpole Island – D. Strang
Jan. 22 – Friends of the St. Clair River (FOSCR) Annual General Meeting, Sarnia – D. Strang, E. Carroll
Jan 23 – 4 CA Planning manual conference call – P. Hayman
Jan. 27 – Aamjiwnaang First Nation Environment Department Meeting (RE: Community Outreach), Sarnia – D. Strang
Jan 29 – Role and Responsibilities of Drain Super Webinar – D. Cundick

2015 Special Events

A.W. Campbell Maple Syrup Festival, March 21 - 22, 9:00 - 4:30
A.W. Campbell Conservation Area

Sydenham River Canoe Race, April 19, Registration 10:00 - 11:00 (Mossie Line at the Sydenham River) Race ends at the Shetland Conservation Area

Strathroy Water Trail Paddle Day, May 23, 9:00 - 1:00,
Centennial Park, Strathroy

Denning Bros. Funeral Home Memorial Forest Dedication, May 31, 2:00
Centennial Park, Strathroy

Member's Project Tour, June 25

McKenzie and Blundy Memorial Forest Dedication, September 20, 2:00
Wawanosh Wetlands Conservation Area

Geocaching Event, September 20, 9:00 am Lorne C. Henderson
Conservation Area

Foundation Memorial Forest Dedication, September 27, 2:00
Lorne C. Henderson Conservation Area

For details on events visit
www.scrca.on.ca and click on events



Staff Report

15.(x)

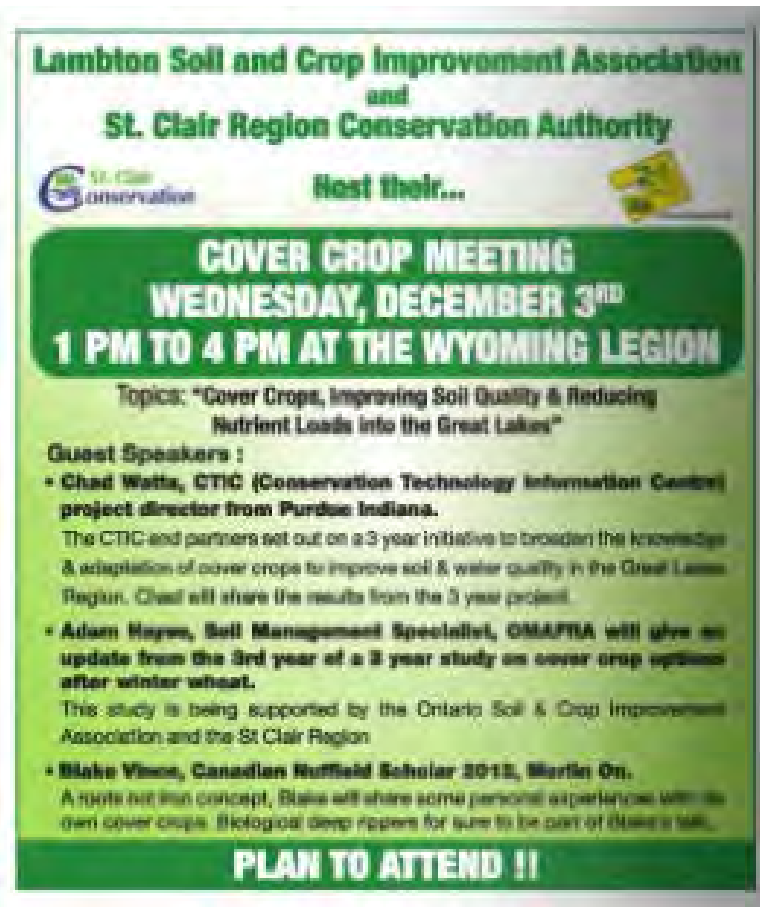


To: Board of Directors
Date: February 6, 2015
From: Jessica Van Zwol, Healthy Watershed Specialist
Subject: Healthy Watersheds Program – Lambton Shores

Lambton Shores Healthy Lake Huron Program

Lambton Shores Tributaries (LST) Watershed received funding from Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Environment Canada as part of the Healthy Lake Huron – Clean Water, Clean Beaches campaign, for immediate action to improve beach and inland surface water quality.

- **Water Quality Monitoring:** ongoing on a monthly and storm event basis to contribute to long-term data
- **Outreach and Education:**
 - *Cover Crop workshop December 3, 2014* – Farmers from Lambton County attended this workshop that was co-hosted by SCRCA and the Lambton Soil & Crop Improvement Association. Blake Vince (Merlin ON), Adam Hayes (OMAFRA), and Chad Watts (Conservation Technology Institute Centre, Purdue, Indiana) spoke on the importance of cover crops.
 - SCRCA staff set up a booth and from the podium, discussed our Lambton Shores water quality comparison of the tile outlets of two farm fields during the March 2014 spring melt – one field was no-tilled bean stubble, the other conventionally tilled. Lab analysis showed that total phosphorus, total nitrogen, and total dissolved solids were at least 2 times higher in the water leaving the outlet from the conventionally tilled field.



- *Lambton Grain Farmers of Ontario AGM January 8, 2015* – Staff had a booth at this annual meeting. It was an opportunity to meet with landowners and talk about potential projects. Two participants of last year’s soil testing workshop made a point of coming over to comment on how much they enjoyed and appreciated that we hosted the workshop for landowners to learn about their soils.
- *Lambton Soil & Crop Improvement Association AGM January 16, 2015* – Staff had a booth at this annual meeting and our Chair, Steve Arnold, presented the Outstanding Farmer of the Year award to Harry Buurma and his wife Shirley. Staff was given space on the agenda to share with the group of 100 farmers the grants we offer. Interest was quite high and many questions were asked throughout the day regarding potential projects. We are currently following up with a few landowners.



Upcoming events:

- *March 9, 2015:* Healthy Lake Huron, Clean Water Clean Beaches General Meeting

Stewardship projects – **Grants available** SCRCA secures funding to support landowner implemented stewardship projects including riparian buffers, block tree planting, windbreaks, wetlands, and erosion control measures. Staff meet with landowners and offer advice and project design and where applicable, support projects with grants. Call today for more information.

Staff Report

15.(xi)



To: Board of Directors
Date: February 6, 2015
From: Jessica Van Zwol, Healthy Watershed Specialist
Subject: Healthy Watersheds Program – Sydenham Headwaters

Healthy Sydenham Headwaters Initiative (HSHI)

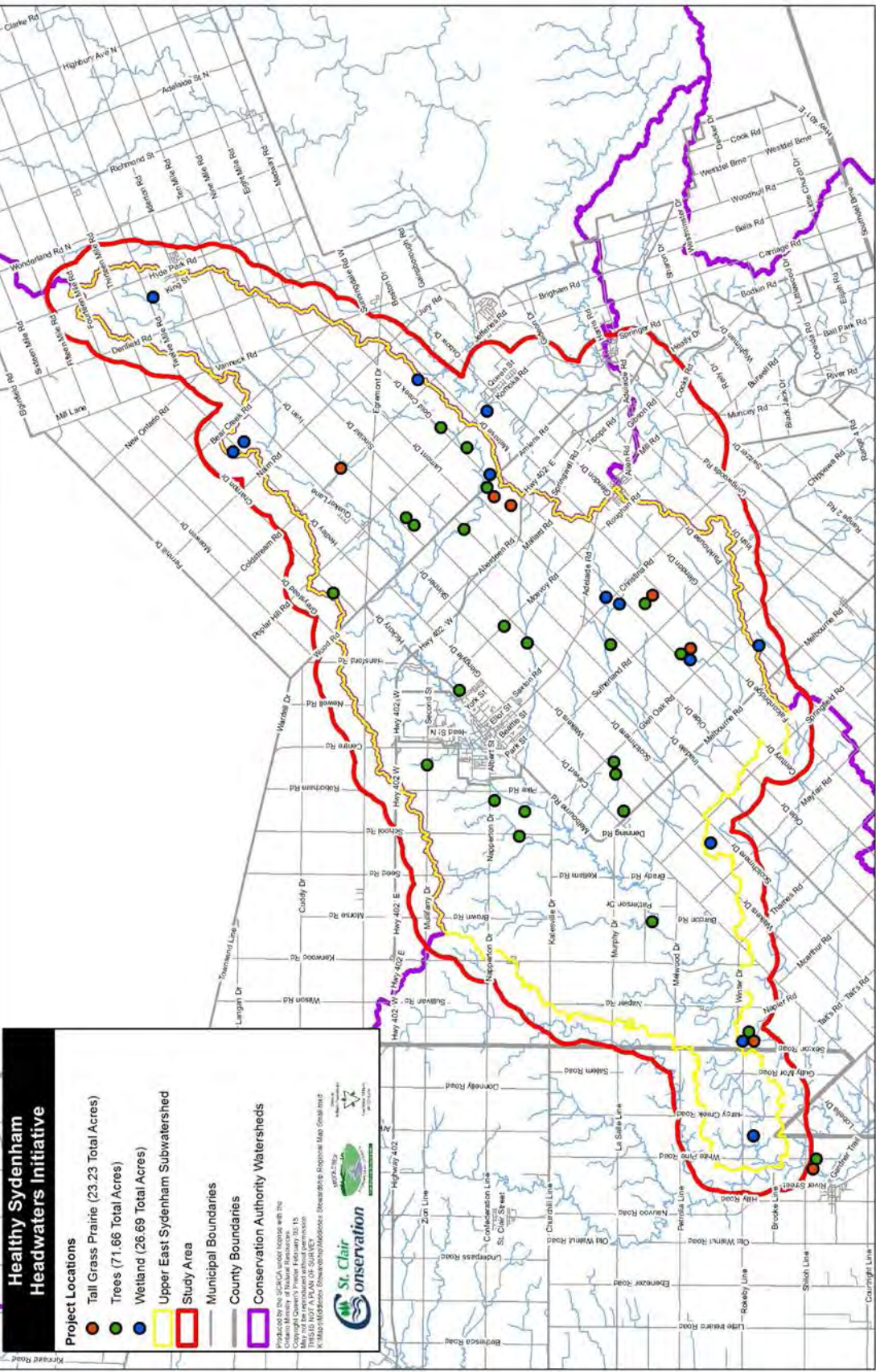
We are wrapping up the 3 year Healthy Sydenham Headwaters Initiative – a project that we partnered with the Middlesex Stewardship Council. We received staff funding dollars from Ontario Trillium Foundation to restore 105 acres of wetlands, tree planting, wildlife corridors, riparian buffers, and tallgrass prairie. Landowners in the study were quite keen and we surpassed our goal by 20%! We restored 121.2 acres of land over the past three years in this region alone!



Upcoming events:

- February 6 2015: Middlesex Soil & Crop Improvement Association AGM, Ilderton





Staff Report

15.(xii)



To: Board of Directors
Date: February 6, 2015
From: Erin Carroll, Aquatic Biologist
Subject: 2015 Surface Water Quality and Aquatic Biomonitoring Programs

Chemical and Physical Condition of Surface Water Quality

Provincial Water Quality Monitoring Network (PWQMN)

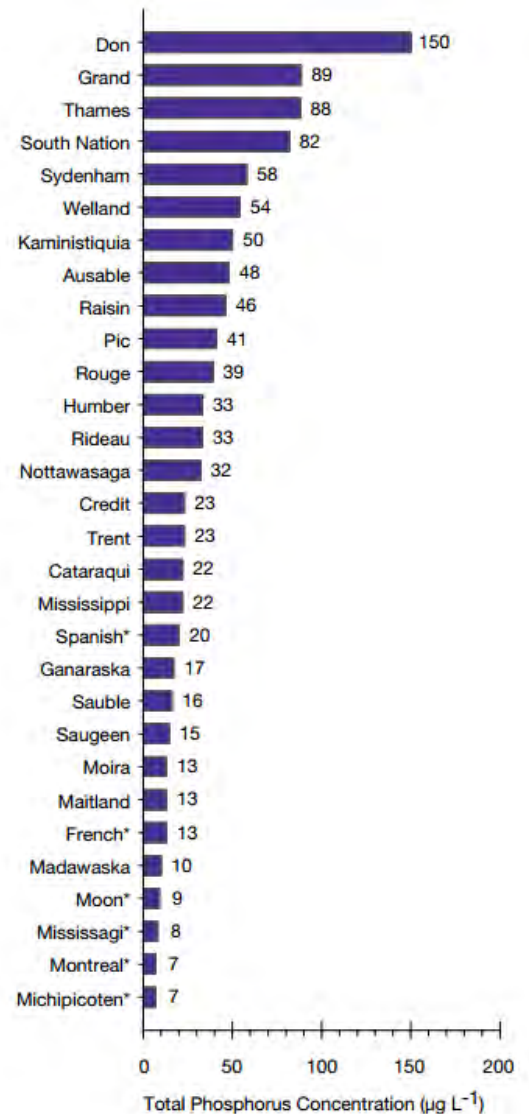
The Provincial (Stream) Water Quality Monitoring Network (PWQMN) measures water quality in rivers and streams across Ontario. Over 400 locations are currently monitored in partnership with Ontario's Conservation Authorities, participating municipalities and provincial parks. Partners collect water samples on an approximately monthly basis and deliver them to the Ministry's laboratory where they are analyzed for a suite of water quality indicators. The program has been operating since 1964 providing a valuable database for tracking changes in water quality over time.

PWQMN results for selected watersheds show the lowest phosphorus concentrations in rivers and streams in central and Northern Ontario where population density is low and there is a more natural land cover. The highest concentrations of phosphorus are in southern Ontario rivers and streams. There, the soils are relatively rich, human population density is higher and the land has been developed for different agricultural and urban uses.

Special studies have been implemented in agricultural and urban watersheds to collect additional information in support of source protection planning and nutrient, road salts and pesticides management.

SCRCA biology staff collect PWQMN samples at eight locations on the Sydenham River and its tributaries. In addition to monitoring changes in water quality over time, PWQMN data from the St. Clair Region has been used in recent years:

- By the Water Quality Monitoring and Surveillance Division (WQMSD) of Environment Canada as part of the tributary loading component of the Great Lakes Nutrient Initiative (GLNI). The program is working



Median phosphorus concentration in 30 Ontario rivers, 2007 to 2011 (data identified by an asterisk based on 2002 to 2006 data). Figure from Ontario Ministry of Environment's Water Quality in Ontario 2012 Report.

towards determining Canadian Tributary Loadings to Lake Erie.

- To assess warm season chloride concentrations in stream habitats of freshwater mussel species at risk.

Additional Physical and Chemical Surface Water Quality Monitoring

An additional 13 water quality stations are monitored in the St. Clair Region using PWQMN protocols, but are not officially part of the Network. Canada Ontario Agreement (COA) and the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MOECC) supports this additional monitoring by funding the laboratory analysis of these samples. Additionally the Middlesex London Health Unit supports SCRCA's water quality program by analyzing the *E. coli* concentrations in water samples collected from each of the eight PWQMN stations. Water chemistry data are averaged over five years to help determine watershed report card water quality grades.

Temperature Regime Monitoring

In 2014, a protocol for determining the summer maximum water temperature was implemented at seven sites on Lake Huron tributary watercourses. Results will be used to assess the suitability of a stream for fish communities and for classifying thermal regimes. Knowledge of aquatic thermal regimes is important for predicting species composition, activity level, behaviours and life cycle events. This temperature monitoring was supported by a grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation.

Healthy Lake Huron Rural Stormwater Monitoring

Two water quality stations are monitored in the Lambton Shores region of our watershed as a part of the Healthy Lake Huron – Clean Water, Clean Beaches campaign. One location has been equipped with an automatic water sampler (ISCO unit) programmed to collect one litre of water every two hours once the water level of the creek rises to a certain point (usually the result of a storm event). We can use this data to determine the concentration of nutrients in the water that comes from a storm event.



Water samples collected at 2 hour intervals (over a 48 hour period) with an automatic sampler on Shashawandah Creek. This photo captures the change in suspended sediment in the creek throughout a storm event in March. As the water levels in Shashawandah rose, the waters became cloudier with suspended sediment and when the water receded, the samples began to clear again

Aquatic Biomonitoring

Biomonitoring is the process of sampling, evaluating, and reporting on ecosystem condition using biological indicators. Since biological communities live in receiving waters, their health and survival reflects the integrated effect of chemical, physical and biological influences over extended periods of time. As such, biomonitoring is an important complement to chemical monitoring programs because the latter indicate stream conditions only at times of sampling and, consequently, short term or intermittent shocks associated with chemical spills, stormwater discharges or non-point sources of pollution are not easily detected.

Fish and Mussel Surveys

The diversity and species of fish and mussel populations inhabiting a stream are good indicators of habitat conditions and long-term stream health because they exhibit a range of tolerances to pollutant levels and environmental requirements for most species are known. For example, cold water fish species, such as brook trout, generally can not tolerate maximum stream water temperature above 21°C, and these species are also relatively intolerant to pollution. In contrast, bottom dwellers are adapted to low oxygen conditions and can usually tolerate higher levels of organic pollution than other species. Thus, in a particular location, the presence of certain species of fish and not others can provide valuable clues about the quality of water at the site.

Focus areas for 2015 mussel surveys was Lake Huron Tributaries. This work was funded by the Ontario Trillium Foundation. Fish survey locations were selected based upon a review of historic records and watercourse habitat. Sites with the highest probability of improving our knowledge (e.g., never surveyed before, watercourses on SCRCA properties) were surveyed. A better understanding of aquatic resources provides watershed residents, and the general public with the information needed to protect, restore and improve these natural resources within our watersheds.



Photos of 2014 fish surveys. Top right shows use of seine net to catch fish. Staff biologist hold Northern Pike (bottom left) and Rainbow Trout (bottom right). Both fishes were found in watercourse where they were previously undocumented.

Benthic Macro-invertebrates

Benthic macro-invertebrates are small bottom-dwelling organisms, mainly insects and crustaceans, that live within watercourses. They are good indicators of aquatic ecosystem health because they are sedentary, their life cycles range in length from months to years, they are easy to collect and identify, they are responsive to changes in water and sediment quality and they are ubiquitous.

Annually (in the spring), SCRCA biology staff collects 14 benthic samples throughout the watershed. Watercourses containing pollution intolerant animals are less impacted to organic inputs than those that have primarily pollution tolerant species. Information from benthic surveys has been collected since 1999 and is used to help determine watershed report card water quality grades.

Staff Report

15. (xiii)



To: Board of Directors
Date: February 6, 2015
From: Kelli Smith, Biological Technician
Subject: McKeough Property Management Plans

Property Management Plans (PMP) in combination with Environmental Farm Plans are under development for McKeough upstream properties. Plans include recommendations to improve agricultural sustainability and to protect environmental resources. Protecting Species at Risk (SAR), improving water quality, and increasing wildlife habitat are some of the environmental goals. Many needs are balanced in order to have an efficient and sustainable property.



Figure 1 Environmental Farm Plan Sign

Property Management Plans have been completed for 12 of the 17 parcels that make up the McKeough Upstream Properties. The additional five parcels are currently in development. PMPs describe the property and highlight the historical use, farming practices, forest management, soil and water management, Species at Risk management, and other key features of the property while addressing environmental risks by recommending best management practices such as riparian planting along watercourses and installing erosion control structures.

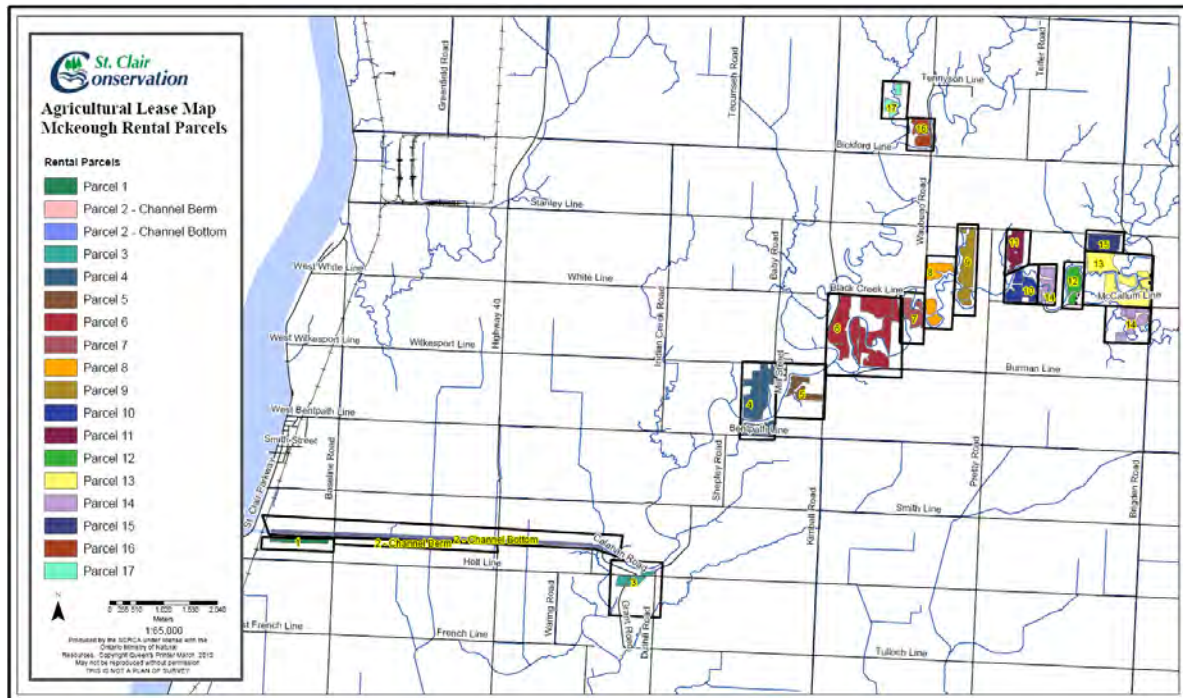


Figure 2 Map of the 17 McKeough Parcels

In total 14 Species at Risk have been noted on or adjacent to the 12 parcels that run from just west of Wilkesport to Bridgen Road. These records include staff observations, fish survey data, Fisheries and Ocean Canada (DFO) SAR mapping, and Natural Heritage Information Center Occurrences. Some of the species observed include: the Eastern Foxsnake, Kentucky Coffeetree, Blackstripe Topminnow, Mapleleaf Mussel, Eastern Spiny Softshell Turtle, and Bobolink.



Figure 3 Left to Right: Bobolink, Eastern Spiny Softshell Turtle, Mapleleaf Mussels, Eastern Foxsnake, Kentucky Coffeetree, and Blackstripe Topminnow

When making recommendations for these SAR species, recovery strategies and management reports were reviewed where applicable. Recommendations almost always include improving the habitat. Habitat improvements include building debris piles for snakes, riparian planting and planting of wildlife corridors for birds and fish, enhancing wetlands, enhancing grasslands for birds like the Bobolink, eliminating invasive exotic species to promote growth for trees and plants, and reducing sediment entering the water for fish and mussels.

Implementing habitat enhancements for SAR species not only helps the individual species but it also has benefits for agriculture. For instance, by planting a riparian buffer along a drain that outlets into the North Sydenham River or Black Creek we create a connecting wildlife corridor for the snakes, birds, and other wildlife to travel for food or protection. The riparian buffer also helps to slow down surface water runoff that enters the drain holding back sediment and topsoil and preventing it from entering the waterway. This not only improves water quality but also retains the top soil on the fields.

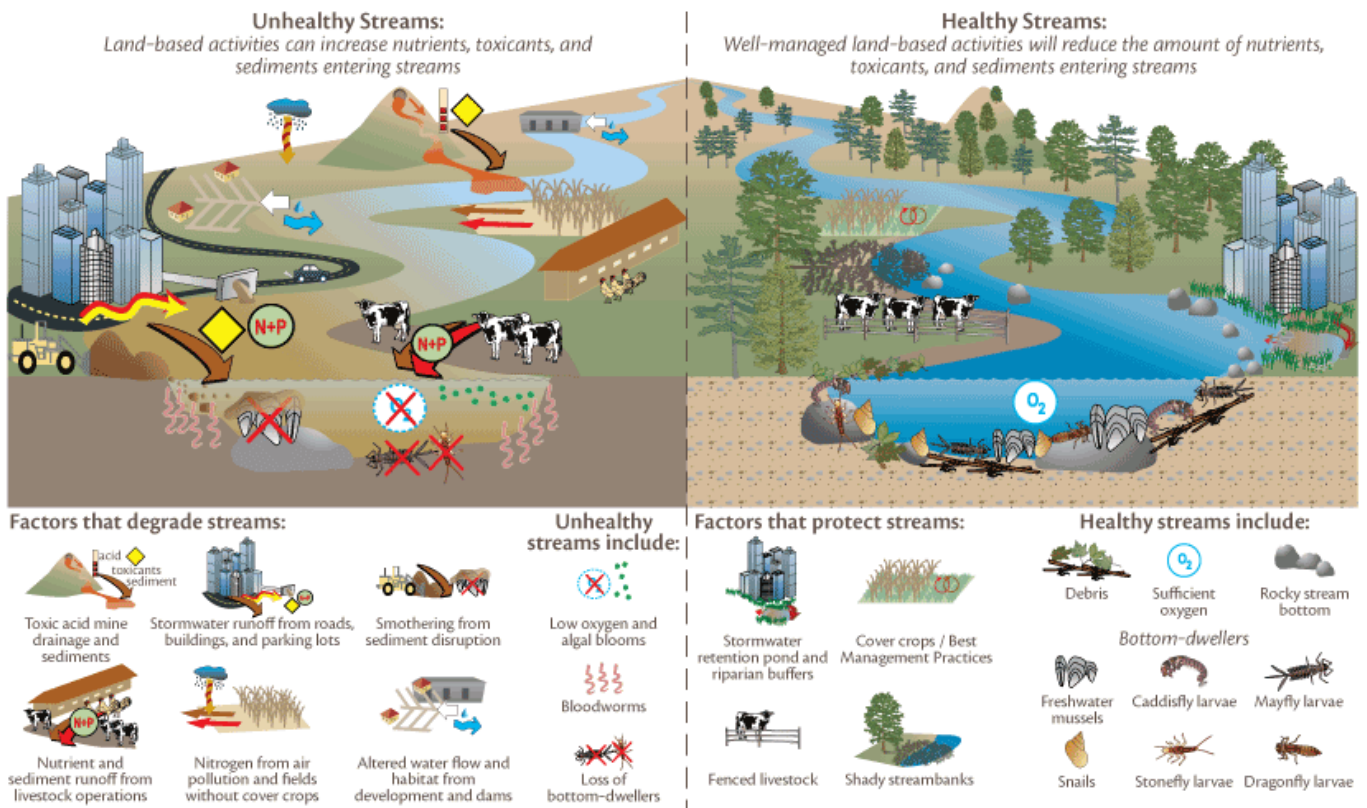


Figure 4 Diagram showing the relationship between what is done on land and impacts on the watershed

By developing these specific environmental management recommendations on the McKeough upstream properties we are able to streamline projects and apply for additional funding. So far we have received grants for habitat enhancements from Wildlife Habitat Canada and the Ontario Land Trust Assistance Program. The outcome of the Property Management Plan in combination with the Environmental Farm Plan is to support a sustainable farm and to protect environmental resources on the McKeough lands.

Staff Report

14.(xiv)



To: Board of Directors
Date: February 6, 2015
From: John Jimmo, Fisheries Technician
Subject: Interpretive signs in the SCRCA watershed

1. Aquatic Species at Risk of the Sydenham River

These signs were installed and created by the SCRCA staff across 12 different areas of the SCRCA jurisdiction.

Descriptions of fish, mussel, snake, and turtle species at risk of the Sydenham River are addressed in this sign.



2. Talford Creek – Aamjiwnaang First Nation

Five signs were created by the SCRCA and installed at the Maawn Doosh Gumig Community and Youth Centre in Sarnia along Talford Creek. These signs display information related to environmental awareness and restoration of Talford Creek.

• prairie : m—sh—ko—de • forest : m—tig—waa—ki • river : ziibi • marsh : m—sko—sing • swamp : m—sh—kiig • fish : giigoonh • bird : bineshunh • butterfly : me—men—gwaanh •

Aquatic Habitat of Talford Creek

Aamjiwnaang
'a meeting place by the rapid water'

Talford Creek is a warm water stream that hosts a variety of species from fish and frogs, to small bugs that live on the creek bottom. The health of the creek and quality of habitat are dependent on three key components: **Shade, Substrate, and Woody Debris.**

The **shade** provided by riparian vegetation is important in keeping the creek cool and clear. The shady areas keep the water cooler, minimize the growth of algae, and provide more oxygen. These cool, shady areas are good fish habitat and provide places for fish to hide.

The **substrate** refers to the materials that dominate the bottom of a watercourse. Sand, gravel, and rocky creek bottoms are important for fish, crayfish, and insects. They need these materials to feed, hide, and reproduce.

Woody debris and fallen trees and logs are important habitat for the various creatures in the creek. This debris provides plenty of hiding places from predators and also helps to create a food source for many animals.

Aquatic Critters of Talford

Nature in Ojibwe
Fish : giigoonh
Mussel : e—sunh

Northern Pike are common predator fish that inhabit cool water streams with abundant vegetation and have been seen in Talford Creek. In the spring, they spawn in the flooded vegetated floodplains of streams. Northern Pike are very patient predators. They lie very still in the vegetation and wait for unsuspecting fish to swim by. Anglers enjoy fishing for pike as they are aggressive fighters.

The **Pink Heelsplitter** is a large freshwater mussel found in Talford Creek. It is known for its bright purple or pinkish-purple, highly iridescent inner shell. The Pink Heelsplitter is usually found in medium to large sized rivers in mixed mud, sand and gravel.

The **Emerald Shiner** is a common fish that is identified by silvery-emerald colouring along its sides. It is found in deep rivers and lakes as well as other water bodies like Talford Creek. They swim in schools at the surface of the water and eat zooplankton and insects. The emerald shiner is used as a bait fish.

Mayflies are an indicator of good water quality, since they are not very tolerant of water pollution. Two types of mayfly have been found in Talford Creek: the Flatheaded Mayfly, and the Squaregill Mayfly. Mayfly nymphs live under rocks and in decomposing logs on the creek bottom and can live up to 1 year under water. The adults are commonly used as fly fishing bait.

• prairie : m—sh—ko—de • forest : m—tig—waa—ki • river : ziibi • marsh : m—sko—sing • swamp : m—sh—kiig • fish : giigoonh • bird : bineshunh • butterfly : me—men—gwaanh •

3. Peers Wetland Interpretive Snake Signs

In 2014, two signs were created by the SCRCA and will be installed in 2015 at Peers Wetland and potentially other properties such as the McKeough Conservation Area. The first sign educates visitors on brush pile habitat creation for snakes as brush piles are considered visually unappealing to most. The second sign provides visitors with information on why reptiles use roads, the associated risks, and how they can help.

Habitat for Snakes

The Sydenham River and surrounding area is host to a diverse range of snake species. One of the most common threats to the survival of these species is loss of habitat.

To compensate for habitat loss and promote habitat enhancement, brush piles can be constructed with a large formation of woody debris. Brush piles benefit wildlife in many ways. In particular, brush piles provide snakes with opportunities to:

Avoid Predators

In open areas, snakes are at risk of being predated by animals such as hawks, raccoons, and coyotes. Brush piles allow snakes to avoid these predators by providing cover.

Bask

In order to maintain an "ideal" body temperature, reptiles require basking which involves absorbing heat from the sun. Logs placed in brush piles warm up and in return provide snakes with a place to absorb heat.

Take Shelter

Escaping severe weather conditions such as extreme summer temperatures is necessary for the survival of snakes. Brush piles can provide a place for snakes to cool down in the shade.



Brush pile habitat for snakes.

Forage for Food

Other animals such as small mammals, amphibians, and birds will also inhabit brush piles. This provides snakes with an excellent opportunity to hunt for a meal.



Eastern Gartersnake (*Thamnophis sirtalis sirtalis*)



Eastern Foxsnake (*Pantherophis gloydi*)



Dekay's Brownsnake (*Storeria dekayi*)

How you can help:

For more information on how you can improve snake habitat or to report any snake sightings please contact the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority:

Phone: 519-245-3710
Email: stclair@scrca.on.ca



A Risk to our Reptiles

Ontario is home to 24 native reptile species including eight turtles, 15 snakes, and one lizard. Populations of many of these species are declining and they are considered to be at risk. Human impact is the major contributor to the decline of our reptile populations.

While avoiding natural predators is difficult enough, other threats to our reptile populations include loss of habitat, pollution, death caused intentionally by humans, and poaching. Road mortality is one of the most significant threats to reptiles, particularly in Southern Ontario, where road density and species diversity is the greatest. In fact, some populations are at risk of being completely wiped out. To help protect these animals, drivers can watch the roads closely and avoid animals when possible.

What attracts reptiles to roadways?



Eastern Foxsnake (*Pantherophis gloydi*)
Photo credit: Lance Cross



Spiny Softshell (*Apalone spinifer*)
Photo credit: Shane White

Basking for warmth:

Basking is a technique used by animals such as reptiles to allow them to maintain a comfortable body temperature by absorbing heat. Depending on weather conditions, snakes will often bask out in the open or under materials that absorb heat such as wood, metal, or rocks.

Roads are frequently used by snakes as they provide excellent warmth. This puts snakes at risk of being struck by oncoming traffic. In most cases, snakes are not visible to drivers while others are unfortunately hit intentionally.



Eastern Gartersnake (*Thamnophis sirtalis sirtalis*) basking on the road.



Road mortality

Nesting opportunity:

Turtles typically lay their eggs from late May to late June. Ideal nesting locations include open areas exposed to sunlight with a mix of gravel and sand. Due to loss of natural habitats turtles often look elsewhere for nesting sites.

Road shoulders may provide turtles with these nesting requirements and as a result, turtles will spend a lot of time on busy roads during nesting season. This leads to many road mortalities each year.

Wildlife crossing:

Animals often require a large amount of habitat and will travel great distances to carry out their life cycles. While travelling to new places, barriers such as roads put animals at risk of death or injury by vehicles while attempting to cross.

In populated areas such as Southern Ontario, roads are abundant and it is common for wildlife to encounter one every few kilometers. Both turtles and snakes are often struck by vehicles while crossing.



Midland Painted Turtle
(*Chrysemys picta marginata*)

PLEASE
BRAKE
FOR
SNAKES

How you can help:

Slow down and keep a close eye for wildlife using roads.

Without putting your safety at risk, assist reptiles and amphibians to cross the road in the direction they are headed. Be careful not to move nesting turtles.

Take photos and report your sightings to the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority (email: st.clair@scica.on.ca, phone: 519-245-3710).

Educate others on the importance of conserving our reptiles and amphibians.



Blandings Turtle (*Emydoidea blandingii*)
Photo credit: David Bouma



Sydenham Field
Naturalists



4. Bear Creek and Sydenham River Interpretive Signs

Previously installed at locations along the Sydenham River in Strathroy, Shetland, and Florence outlining aquatic ecology of the Sydenham River. The sign located in Strathroy was removed by an unknown person(s) and is still present in Florence.

DFO also plans to install a sign similar to this at the Bridgeview Conservation Area which will be specific to Bear Creek.



5. Lambton Shores Tributaries Watershed Enhancement Project

- Will be installed by the SCRCA in 2015.
- Provides visitors with information on previous stewardship projects in Lambton Shores, the benefits of cover crops, and potential grants for stewardship projects that landowners may be eligible for.

6. “Please Brake for Snakes”


Signs were installed by the SCRCA for the purpose of preventing any future road mortalities to snakes by alerting drivers of snake “hotspots”. Vehicles are a significant threat to reptiles. These signs have been removed due to safety and liability concerns. Options will be presented to the Board of Directors in the future.

7. Wawanosh Wetlands


Two signs have been installed by the SCRCA outlining the benefits of wetlands and providing a brief history of the property.

8. Forest Sewage Lagoons – Benefits of Wetlands


Benefits of Wetlands




Improve Water Quality
Wetlands trap and filter pollutants and improve degraded water. When water flows into a wetland, plants and soils filter the water, trapping sediment from urban, industrial, farm, and other sources. Wetlands also remove nutrients and pollutants such as pesticides, and various pathogens from agricultural runoff or wastewater effluent. Wetlands can also remove heavy metals, including copper, lead, zinc, and mercury. It has been reported that up to 70% of sediment can be removed by wetlands, and that 50% of nitrogen and phosphorus can be removed, and up to 90% of carbon. Wetlands also can be removed by constructed wetlands.



Agricultural Benefits
Wetlands help store and remove water for nearby agricultural operations. The average quality of wetlands allows them to store water, but when it rains, ground water or surface water can be pumped out. Wetlands also help prevent erosion by slowing the movement of runoff and reducing soil erosion. Wetlands also help prevent the loss of soil that can come from farm fields and that means preservation of topsoil for ongoing agricultural productivity.




Economic Benefits
In addition to the many natural economic benefits of wetlands (e.g. controlling erosion, reducing the impact of flooding, increasing the effects of climate change, etc.), there are some ways in which wetlands directly benefit the economy. They provide recreational benefits, such as hunting, fishing, and bird watching, and are used for water purification. Wetlands also provide a natural barrier against flooding, which can save money on water purification systems.




Store Water
Wetlands can reduce the amount of both flood and drought conditions in a watershed. They function like sponges, storing and releasing water at different rates depending on the amount of water entering the system. Wetlands also help reduce erosion and sedimentation, which can save money on water purification systems.


Reduce Flooding
Flooding can occur when water is prevented from flowing through a watershed. Wetlands can reduce the amount of water that is prevented from flowing through a watershed. Wetlands can reduce the amount of water that is prevented from flowing through a watershed. Wetlands can reduce the amount of water that is prevented from flowing through a watershed.




Great Blue Heron




Great Blue Heron



Great Blue Heron




Great Blue Heron




9. Alexandra Park (Strathroy) – Making a Healthier Stream

Riparian Buffers - Making a Healthier Stream




Butterbush – The fruits of this native shrub look like buttons. Wood Ducks like to eat these seeds. The butterbush is a good riparian buffer shrub because it can handle a lot of flooding.



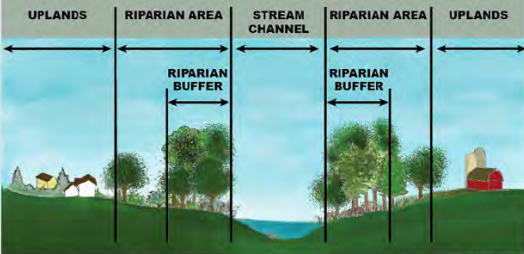
Nannyberry – A very showy native shrub with beautiful white flowers in the spring and blue berries in the fall. Birds enjoy the berries and the berries are edible for humans as well and work well in jams and jellies.

What Is A Riparian Buffer?

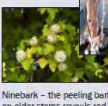
A Riparian Buffer is an area of vegetated land beside a stream or river that "buffers" the water from pollutants and helps reduce erosion.




Narrowleaved meadowsweet – The leaves of this native shrub have an almost almond-like fragrance, while the flowers have a strong, sweet smell. It has medicinal use as an astringent and diuretic.




Graphic courtesy of Lake Champlain International




Ninebark – The peeling bark on older stems reveals red to tan inner bark in the winter. This native shrub provides nectar for butterflies and seeds for birds.



Shrub rose – is a good pollinator and the rosehips are edible. The flowers of the shrub rose are fragrant.




Spicebush - It's twigs and branches, when scraped, emit a spicy fragrance. The spicebush makes a great addition to local gardens and attracts spicebush swallowtail caterpillars.




Bebb willow and sandbar willow – Aboriginal peoples used the willow shrub for medicinal purposes. Acetylsalicylic acid (or ASA) is found in willow bark and has been used for medicinal purposes as long ago as 2000 years BC! Today ASA is found in aspirin.


What Do Riparian Buffers Do?


- Help keep pollution and runoff from entering the water
- In urban areas, riparian buffers can help keep waterways clean and ensure our drinking water is healthy
- Trap and take up nutrients and contaminants that could harm the stream
- Help maintain a healthy ecosystem for aquatic organisms in the stream
- Provide habitat and food for terrestrial and aquatic plants and animals
- Lower water temperatures
- Protect stream banks from erosion and provide stream bank stability
- Act like a sponge when the stream floods or when there is a lot of precipitation like rain or snow





Environment Canada





**SCRCA Joint Health & Safety
Committee Meeting
Minutes – September 25, 2014**

15.(xv)
Lower Board Room
205 Mill Pond Crest.
Strathroy, ON

Meeting called by:	JHSC Committee	Type of meeting:	Quarterly
Date:	Thursday, Sept. 25, 2014 (rescheduled from 16-Sept-14)	Time:	8:15 am
Facilitator:	Kevan Baker		
Minutes:	Heather Long		
Attendees:	Mark Bakelaar, Kevan Baker, Steve Clark, Jeff Sharp, Heather Long		
Visitors:	Janelle Lett		

Minutes of Agenda Items

1. Approve July 9, 2014 meeting minutes

Motion: that "The Minutes of the July 9, 2014 meeting be approved as printed with the following correction – Facilitator should be changed to Steve Clark."

Moved/Seconded/Carried – Mark/Jeff/Carried

2. Business arising from the minutes

2.1. Review of Action Items

Steve Clark:

- to arrange fire safety training for full time staff who did not attend training in August, 2013. (March 20, 2014 – item 2.1 and July 9, 2014 item 2.1)

Discussion:

- Strathroy Fire have agreed to do the training and have offered do it at the Strathroy office

Action Item:

- **Heather** to confirm names for training and forward to Steve
- **Steve** will finalize arrangements with Strathroy Fire Dept. and communicate to staff
- to review McKeough training files (saved on disc) and check to ensure that training includes "read the manual". This disc is to be stored and the information added into the Health & Safety Manual (March 20, 2014 – item 3.1 and July 9, 2014 – Item 2.1)

Discussion:

- all sections have been reviewed and are complete

Action Item:

- **Heather** to load these training files into the Health & Safety Manual
 - to share information gathered from other CA's and presented to General Manager re: visitor sign-in/out (July 9, 2014 – item 2.1)
- Discussion:**
- Upper Thames, Ausable Bayfield, Lower Thames Conservation areas– do not use a sign-in system. Instead, their staff meet the visitor at the reception desk and accompany them.
 - Grand River C.A. – has visitors sign in, wear a "Visitor" tag with their name and sign out when they leave

Action Item:

- SCRCA will follow directions of General Manager (see Item 2.1 – Heather)
- to investigate the need for smoke detectors in public buildings (including workshops) (July 9, 2014 – item 3.2)

Discussion:

- not required as they are not dwellings where people are living
- carbon monoxide detector in the Strathroy office may be older than 10 years and should therefore be replaced
- JHSC recommends having one CO detector on each floor

Action Item:

- **Management** to investigate and give direction on replacement
- to schedule McLean inspection for the Fall of 2014 (*July 9, 2014 – item 3.2*)

Discussion:

- staff are now hired and living and working on site

Action Item:

- **Steve Clark** to arrange inspection date with McLean staff
- to review the need for lifting policy / lifting training (*July 9, 2014 – item 4.8*)

Discussion:

- a best practice would be to develop a lifting policy and update the training sheets so there is documentation of the areas related to lifting that staff have been trained in
- Kevan provided lifting training to 3 staff from the Biology Dept. Topics included safe ways to handle coolers with water samples (splitting water samples into 2 coolers) and safe ways to lift and use electro fishing equipment.
- Conservation Services has also provided staff training on safe ways to lift and use backpacks which are used for spraying

Action Item:

- **Jeff** to update the Initial Employee Safety Instruction training sheet to include lifting
- **Kevan** to communicate to management the need for a lifting policy
- **All staff** to keep their training sheets up to date and submit to Heather so Training Matrix can be kept up to date

Kevan Baker

- to talk to Brian McDougall re: training that should be incorporating as part of SCRCA team building day (*March 20, 2014 and July 9, 2014 – item 2.1*)

Discussion:

- topic of 2014 Team Building Day training was Mindfulness, presented by Jennifer Alexander
- vehicle circle check training was to have been included if time allowed

Action Item:

- **Management** to arrange vehicle circle check training with full staff
- to investigate the number of fire extinguishers needed at McLean (*July 9, 2014 – item 2.1 & 4.7*)

Discussion:

- one fire extinguisher purchased for workshop at McLean (to be inspected with London Fire Equipment inspection each Spring)
- to remind supervisors of the need to train staff on proper lifting procedures and available lifting equipment and make training video available to them (*July 9, 2014 – item 4.8*)

Discussion:

- see item 2.1 – Steve – need for lifting policy

Action Item:

- **Kevan** to make Supervisors aware of proper lifting procedures and equipment that is available to assist with lifting heavy loads
- to purchase one sharps container for each park truck to be used for sharp objects found when collecting garbage (*July 9, 2014 – item 4.10*)

Discussion:

- these containers have been purchased and added to all park trucks
- to encourage supervisors to complete safety reviews and 5 point checklists on a more frequent basis (*July 9, 2014 – item 5.5*)

Discussion:

- has been mentioned at Supervisors' meetings

Jeff Sharp:

- to review OPS Fleet Driver Manual, vehicle training section from Upper Thames C.A. and suggestions from JHSC team to develop a draft SCRCA Driver's Manual (*March 20, 2014 & July 9, 2014 – item 2.1*)

Discussion:

- new draft manual and training test has been developed

Action Item:

- **Jeff** to forward to Brian (Management) to review / make changes/ become policy

Heather Long

- to update Health & Safety Manual if/when Board of Directors approves changes to Safety Officer Responsibilities (*March 20, 2014 – item 4.7 & July 9, 2014 - item 2.1*)

Discussion:

- motion to approve this change was passed at the September 18, 2014 Board Meeting
- manual has been updated and saved

Action Item:

- formatting of Health & Safety Manual should be updated with a footer and new numbering format as time allows

- to implement sign-in/sign-out form for visitors following approval by General Manager (*March 20, 2014 – item 4.9 and July 9, 2014 – item 2.1*)

Discussion:

- has been reviewed by General Manager
- to be implemented

Action Item:

- **Management** to arrange staff training on use of this form at the October 15th full staff meeting

- to prepare a form for McKeough, McLean, AWC, LCH & WWK to document monthly checks of Fire extinguishers, emergency exits & emergency lights (*July 9, 2014 – item 4.2*)

Discussion:

- prepared & distributed for all locations to begin using

- to confirm with MTO contact and General Manager, the need for completion of time log books for vehicles other than CVOR Vehicles

Discussion:

- Brian would like all staff to complete the time log section on the new daily circle check form when driving any SCRCA vehicle, regardless of what the MTO requires
- information from Jeff Wootton, MTO by email indicates that the time log on our inspection log can be used in place of the full time-log book as long the vehicle is starting and ending the day from the same location (Attachment #4)

Action Item:

- **Management** to arrange training for all staff at the October 15th full staff meeting

- Staff Name Tags (*July 9, 2014 – item 3.3*)

Discussion:

- 03-Sep-14 email sent to all staff offering a name tag with first name only (Attachment #2)

3. Area Reports/Workplace Inspections**3.1. Watershed Services (Steve C.)****Discussion:**

- no reports

3.2. Workplace Inspections (Steve C.)**Discussion:**

- Completed at McKeough (Aug. 15), LCH (Aug. 15), WWK (August 22), Clark Wright (Sept. 22)
- water at Clark Wright has not been tested to see if it is potable
- mold has been found in the new section at Clark Wright – dehumidifier needed

Action Item:

- reports indicate what needs to be done in each area
- **Jeff** to put up sign at Clark Wright indicating water is not potable
- **Conservation Services & Biology Depts.** to purchase a portable dehumidifier

3.3. General CAs (Kevan/Mark)

Discussion:

- What is SCRCA's policy if safety shoes wear out? If safety shoes are required for the job a \$100 allowance / year is offered. If safety shoes wear out before the end of the year, the staff member is responsible to purchase new ones at their expense.

Action Item:

- **Kevan** to remind supervisors to ensure staff are wearing the appropriate footwear

4. New Business

4.1. Review of Incident/Injury Investigation Reports since our July 9, 2014 meeting (Steve)

Discussion:

- 3 reports – no lost time – to be scanned and filed
- recommendations are being reviewed

4.2. New Circle Check sheets, Vehicle Inspection Log Sheets, Maintenance Schedule (Heather)

Discussion:

- see Attachment #3

Action Item:

- will be implemented for all fleet vehicles following training at the full staff meeting
- **Management** to arrange training at the full staff meeting

4.3. Preparation for nominations for new JHSC Worker Rep. at October 15, 2014 full staff meeting (Mark's 3 year term will be up in December 2014) (March 20, 2014 – item 4.2) (Steve C.)

Discussion:

- Mark's term will be up at the end of the year

Action Item:

- nominations and elections to be arranged at the October 15th full staff meeting
- **Steve Clark** to send out email to all staff calling for nominations

4.4. Correspondence re: Smoking Policy (Steve C.)

Discussion:

- issue involved smoking too close to building
- Steve C. reviewed SCRCA's smoking policy with concerned staff

4.5. Updates on training

Discussion:

- chipper training carried out with selected staff – August/2014
- canoe training carried out with selected staff – June 11, 2014
- lifting training carried out with selected staff – September 24, 2014

Action Item:

- **Jeff** to provide details of staff who completed chipper training for training matrix

4.6. AED possibility update

Discussion:

- we will be getting an AED for LCH with money raised from the Lambton Big Bike Ride
- by email, Jon Cann indicated the order for it will be placed by mid-September

Action Item:

- training will be needed for staff that work at LCH

4.7. Policy for snow days

Discussion:

- for policy please see - <..\..\..\Admin\Docs\Policies\inclement weather.pdf>

Action Item:

- **Management** to remind staff of this at the full staff meeting

4.8. Air Quality in our buildings (Jeff)

Discussion:

- several staff have identified that they cough when they are in the office (but not outside)
- recommend that air quality is assessed prior to renovations in case further work needs to be done

Action Item:

- **Kevan** to share this concern with management

4.9. Accessibility Training (Kevan)

Discussion:

- information from Upper Thames web-based training re: AODA – Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulations was shared

Action Item:

- **Kevan** to review SCRCA Accessibility Training to ensure we are covering all required areas

5. Goals and Objectives in 2014

- 5.1. To regularly review MOL website to educate ourselves and learn from documented investigations and fines (ongoing)
- 5.2. To review safety manual and make changes as necessary (ongoing)
- 5.3. To appoint a worker rep. for a 3 year term (schedule for October 2014)
- 5.4. Conduct workplace inspections as required (at least one location each month)
- 5.5. To encourage supervisors to complete safety reviews and 5 point check lists on a more frequent basis (ongoing)
- 5.6. To organize the JHSC files on the O drive (ongoing)
- 5.7. To recommend that Supervisors schedule retraining refreshers with their staff, once a month (ongoing)
- 5.8. To develop and incorporate a drivers safety training program into our orientation of all staff (in process)
- 5.9. To send occasional Health & Safety Bulletins to all staff (2 x heat alerts from Lambton Public Health forwarded to all staff on August 25th & Sept. 5).

6. Next meeting date: November 26, 2014 – Steve Clark to chair.

7. Adjournment – 10:30 am (Steve/Jeff)


Motion: that “The meeting be adjourned.”

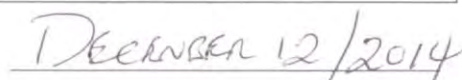
Moved/Seconded/Carried – Steve/Jeff/Carried


Misc. Information

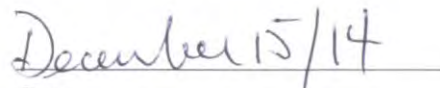
Observers: Janelle Lett

Contacts:	Worker Co-chair/Inspector:	Steve Clark	sclark@scrca.on.ca
	Management Co-chair:	Kevan Baker	kbaker@scrca.on.ca
	Worker Reps.:	Mark Bakelaar	mbakelaar@scrca.on.ca
		Steve Clark	sclark@scrca.on.ca
		Jeff Sharp	jsharp@scrca.on.ca
	Committee Secretary:	Heather Long	hlong@scrca.on.ca


Signature of Co-chair


Date


Signature of Co-chair


Date

Sarnia and Lambton County's daily newspapers since 1853



The Observer

Monday, December 22, 2014

■ **IPPERWASH BEACH:** Some cottagers calling for Municipality of Lambton Shores to put up new barrier

Tempers flare over missing beach barrier

BARBARA SIMPSON
The Observer

PORT FRANKS - Frustrated Ipperwash Beach cottagers caught up in a dispute over an alleged First Nation historical trail demanded answers from municipal leaders and community association officials Saturday.

But the answers were few and far between for some cottagers who became fed up at times during the two-hour, standing-room-only meeting held at the Port Franks Community Centre.

"All we're doing is sucking and blowing air here," said one cottager, who declined to give his name to The Observer.

Questions in particular swirled around why the Municipality of Lambton Shores hasn't simply put up another vehicle barrier to replace the government-erected one taken down by members of the Chippewas of Kettle & Stony Point First Nation more than two weeks ago.

"We have not discussed that as a council," Lambton Shores Mayor Bill Weber told the crowd Saturday. "We all know that if we put them back up, they will come back down."

The Ontario government is currently investigating the property dispute surrounding Ipperwash Beach in light of Kettle and Stony Point First Nation claiming it has a historical trail along the beach between its two communities.

Affected cottagers, however, insist their property deeds extend right to the water's edge. They claim the removal of the barricade raises public safety,



We have not discussed that as a council. We all know that if we put them back up, they will come back down."

Lambton Shores Mayor Bill Weber

environmental and property value concerns.

Discussions have been ongoing between Weber, Kettle and Stony Point First Nation Chief Tom Bressette, the Central Ipperwash Community Association and the Ontario Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs.

But some cottagers called Saturday for the community association to in the meantime endorse boycotting local First Nation businesses and putting up another barrier to prevent drivers from travelling along the beach.

Association chair Eugene Dorey, however, told cottagers it simply cannot endorse those moves.

"That isn't bargaining in good faith," he said, reiterating the call for "the process" - negotiations between all the stakeholders - be followed.

At the same time, association vice-chair Gerry Rupke called on cottagers to form a united front by writing letters to provincial and federal politicians.

Lambton Shores council also recently directed its staff to investigate the possibility of getting court injunctions to get the barrier back up and protect the beach's dunes, Rupke noted.

"If we sit back and do nothing, what happened in Caledonia will happen here," he told the crowd.

In 2006, First Nation protesters occupied Douglas Creek Estates, a subdivision in development in Caledonia, Ont., resulting in the infamous clash between native and non-native residents.

For long-time cottager Eric Shafer, who lived through the Ipperwash Crisis, he said the process involving meetings between all stakeholders needs to be followed.

"The only solution for this is it goes to the court and the people here can't afford that," he said following Saturday's meeting.

Cottagers heard it could cost \$50,000 and take three months per court injunction.

Some in attendance also leveled criticism at the Ontario Provincial Police for not stepping in to stop the removal of the barricade.

But Shafer said he doesn't blame OPP officers because they are just following protocol.

"OPP officers are not judges and jurors," he added. "They are peace officers."

barbara.simpson@sunmedia.ca



BARBARA SIMPSON/THE OBSERVER

Ipperwash Beach resident Mark Lindsay addresses fellow cottagers at the Port Franks Community Centre Saturday. Dozens of cottagers demanded answers over a slew of public safety, environmental and insurance concerns in light of a vehicle barricade recently being removed from Centre Ipperwash Beach. Members of the Chippewas of Kettle and Stony Point First Nation removed the barricade two weeks ago, pointing to a historical trail that allegedly runs between the two First Nation communities.

■ **DEVINE STREET:** Local developer has applied for affordable housing funding

■ **ENVIRONMENT:** St. Clair Region Conservation Authority monitoring dune system

Keeping an eye on Ipperwash Beach

TYLER KULA
The Observer

The St. Clair Region Conservation Authority is keeping a watchful eye on Ipperwash Beach.

That was the direction from the authority's board of directors after a meeting earlier this month.

A system of dunes stretching along the recently opened-to-vehicles portion of beach between West Ipperwash and Army Camp roads is sensitive and protects homes from flooding, said Brian McDougall, the authority's general manager.

"We just want to be aware of the current status in the event, especially, that further action is taken," he said.

Members of Kettle and Stony Point First Nation recently took down more than 40-year-old barriers barring vehicle access to the section of beach, which homeowners contest is part of their properties. Deeds, several say, show they own to the water's edge.

The band claims the beach as a

historical trail and says First Nations weren't consulted when the Ministry of Natural Resources erected barriers in 1973.

The controversial move has sparked a provincial investigation into treaties and property ownership in the area.

Vehicles driving on the beach have raised concerns about people's safety and the environment.

But it's not negatively impacting the dune system, nor did removing the barriers, McDougall said.

"It's not something that we see of significant issue," he said.

What the authority is watching for is if anything else is done, he said, noting it's also "looking to engage the First Nation in discussion over what those steps might be."

An initial beach management plan from the band in May suggested dunes could be physically removed, to widen the trail, he said.

Band manager Lorraine George has said there's been dialogue, but no firm plans about removing

dunes.

The beach is dynamic in that it's often changing with weather and there are no protective systems in place outside of the dunes, McDougall said.

"Therefore Mother Nature is a little bit more in control than other areas."

The authority, he said, has had power over shorelines since its mandate was expanded by the province in 2006.

It reviews development proposals along the beach, something that, at times, has been a sensitive point between it and homeowners looking at property development, he said.

If development proposals don't negatively impact flooding and erosion controls, they generally get the go-ahead, McDougall said.

"We work with landowners to ensure that they're protected from themselves, to stay away from potential flood situations, etc."

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Ipperwash takes measures to protect beach safety, environment

By Kimberly Powell-McConaghy

On Friday, December 5 Kettle & Stony Point Chief Tom Bressette left the community of Ipperwash concerned about safety, the environment and land ownership as he headed work to remove barricades opening up access to the historical trail along the beach.

Chief Bressette said the First Nation was never consulted by any level of government when the documented historical trails were barricaded in 1973. He said, "Our First Nation has chosen to exer-

cise our jurisdiction in re-opening this travel route once again for the benefit of our First Nation members in addition to all residents and visitors to our communities."

Since then a man-made barrier has been put up to prevent traffic flow on the beach as well as snow fence to protect the dune from damage.

Lambton Shores Councillor and Vice President of the Centre Ipperwash Community Association (CICA) Gerry Rupke says the feeling amongst the community has been overwhelming. "We're asking, 'Why hasn't someone done some-

thing?', and we're not sure who that someone is."

"We need to get the truth out," says Rupke. "Beachfront owners have deeds that show they own up to the water's edge. These are the only legal documents that exist and someone has come in and said, 'Now I'm going to own it'."

Chief Bressette recently stated that too many Canadians are being misinformed. "We have Aboriginal Title to the land," he added.

CICA is looking at options. "We're not looking to resolve the issue," says Rupke. "That's not at our level. That's at the

provincial and federal level. But we are making sure people are aware of what is going on. That someone is occupying private land and people have to know."

Lambton Shores

Mayor Bill Weber says a lot of discussion has been ongoing since the original incident and an update will be presented at the December 18 meeting of council.

There will be an infor-

mation meeting open to the public, sponsored by CICA, held on December 20 from 1 pm to 3 pm at the Port Franks Community Centre to inform and update people on the situation.

Forest Standard
Dec 18/2014

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NEWS LOCAL

WATER LEVELS

Lakes Huron, Michigan unusually high



By Debora Van Brenk, The London Free Press
Saturday, December 20, 2014 12:44:58 EST PM



Part of a barricade sits under high waters at Ipperwash Beach on the shores of Lake St. Clair. CRAIG GLOVER The London Free Press / QMI AGENCY

Water levels in Lakes Huron and Michigan are bucking the seasonal trend by remaining high when they normally drop.

And there's a decent chance they might remain at about these levels, something that hasn't happened in years, until spring rain boosts their volume for next year.

Since record-keeping began a century ago, water levels in Lakes Michigan-Huron have risen in only seven years, said Derrick Beach, hydrology specialist with Environment Canada.

"It's fairly rare to see that," he said, noting the decline generally starts in late summer

Only a few years ago, the lakes had lost so much water — less rainfall and more evaporation were among the reasons — that many people worried they were destined to remain low for the long haul.

But above-average rainfall and snowfall have fallen on Lakes Superior and Michigan-Huron (Michigan-Huron is considered one lake system) for about a year.

Water is flowing out of Superior into Michigan-Huron at 2,410 cubic metres/second, and that's also making a big difference to lake levels, Beach said.

A few years ago, many lobbyists, especially hard-hit cottagers on Georgian Bay, said lake levels were so low that "speedbumps" should be built in the St. Clair River to keep water in Lake Huron a little longer during dry spells.

Even today's higher lake levels suggest the same argument can be made to moderate water flows by building flexible underwater structures and covering the riverbed with rock rubble, said Mary Muter, Ontario Great Lakes section chair of Sierra Club Canada.

"Now, with above-average flows in the St. Clair River, we are concerned the erosion has accelerated," she said.

While some locks moderate flows from Superior, Erie and Ontario, there's nothing similar for Michigan-Huron, she said.

High levels are a boon for shipping. Low levels mean shippers can't load boats with as much cargo, while there's also concern valuable wetland habitat is lost.

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WHERE THEY'RE AT

- Superior, Michigan-Huron and Erie had above-average lake levels in November. Lake Ontario had less rain this fall and dropped to below-average levels.
- Superior was 21 cm higher than average (and 27 cm higher than November 2013); Michigan-Huron was 17 cm higher than average (53 cm higher than last November); Erie was 16 cm higher than average (18 cm higher than last November); Ontario is 7 cm below average (14 cm lower than a year ago).

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Bitch when it's low bitch when it's high

No silver bullet for Lake Erie's algae explosions

It will take a lot of different strategies to curb nutrient runoff

BY MELANIE EPP

Ontario Farmer

It's no secret that runoff from agriculture is seen as the major culprit of the algae explosions seen in Lake Erie in recent years. The problem is significant, especially given that the Great Lakes account for 20 per cent of the world's surface freshwater supply.

Slowly, Ontario farmers are adopting best management practices to address nutrient runoff, including implementing cover crops, upgrading tile drainage systems and re-evaluating tillage practices. More needs to be done, though, which is why researchers are working on alternative solutions to further address nutrient loss.

In the spring of 2015, Farm & Food Care Foundation will facilitate a project to evaluate the efficacy of dribble bar manure applications. Adapted from similar technology in Europe, the dribble bar does just what it says: it dribbles manure precisely where and when plants need it.

"Since it does not get onto the plants and can bind to the soil quickly, it should reduce nutrient loss," says Farm & Food Care's Environmental Coordinator, Micah Shearer-Kudel.

Research indicates that storm events attribute the greatest nutrient loss from the field, says Shearer-Kudel. "For example, if a field is spread with manure when the ground is frozen, it will stay until the ground loosens," he says. "But before that happens the snow will melt or a rain event will transport a great amount of the nutrients from the field.

Although it's not widely adopted by farmers yet, Shearer-Kudel recommends low to no winter spreading to avoid unintentional losses.

Environmental Farm Plans (EFPs) in Ontario are voluntary. The province provides cost-sharing funding for a number of its programs to increase uptake. Programs to aid with nutrient uptake include upgrades to tile drainage, manure management, and the building of constructed wetlands to treat wastewater from greenhouses and truck washing operations.

Luckhart Transportation Ltd., a livestock trucking facility in Sebringville, for instance, has been working in coopera-

tion with Upper Thames River Conservation Authority and Bulent Mutus, head of the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry at the University of Windsor, to implement a unique filtration system.

The system is set up at an existing lagoon and wetland area, and designed to accept manure and detergent-filled wastewater from Luckhart's truck washing station. So far, it has been successful at removing nitrates and E. Coli from wastewater.

"Linking nutrient management to water quality is just one small part of a complex challenge," says Jacqui Empson Laporte, Environmental Specialist, Ontario Ministry of

"It comes down to a bunch of smaller nutrient losses having a large, longer term cumulative effect..."
— Jacqui Empson Laporte

Agriculture and Food.

"It comes down to a whole bunch of smaller nutrient losses having a large, longer term cumulative effect on the lakes and surface water in general."

"While the effects of poor water quality are seen at the lake and in other surface water, the problems and solutions can

be found in the land and soil of the watershed," she continues. "Given the watersheds for Lake Huron and Lake Erie take up a significant portion of Ontario, the responsibility for water quality is shared by everyone that lives and work here."

But in Ontario the biggest concern is phosphorus loss, and farmers are taking the blame. There is growing concern that tile drains could be a significant source of dissolved phosphorus, especially in untilled soil.

To address this, OMAFRA is conducting an analysis of annual runoff and phosphorus loss from minimum till sites across Ontario. The project will evaluate existing and new data to quantify the role of tile drains from minimum-till sites on annual P loads. The project's results will help them to make recommendations regarding the effects of no-till and rotational minimum till on phosphorus loss via tile drains.

"There is no single solution to solving water quality issues in the Great Lakes," concludes Empson Laporte. "Agriculture will continue to discover new and more effective management practices that adapt to new challenges such as climate change, extreme weather events and the demand for secure, safe food supply."

To learn more about Environmental Farm Plans in Ontario visit <http://tinyurl.com/7dew2w6>.

Courier Press

Permanent pasture and pond established to improve Lambton County farm

Thu Jan 8 2015

Page: 4

Section: News

Byline: MATT MCINTOSH, SPECIAL TO QMI AGENCY

Illustrations: Submitted photo ; Chad Anderson stands outside his beef barn. ;

Chad Anderson might not be an avid outdoorsman, but he has an appreciation for natural spaces and the wildlife they support. On his cow-calf farm near Mooretown, Anderson has invested in both new pasture and a new pond in an effort to improve the environment for wild birds as well as his beef herd.

In 2013, the Anderson farm was in the middle of a transition. A section of cropland was being converted to permanent pasture for his animals. However, his pasturing plans hit a roadblock when they encountered a stubbornly wet section of ground just behind his barn.

"Part of the area we were seeding down to pasture was always a really wet and low-lying area," said Anderson. "Leaving it like that and making it into pasture would have been an issue. I didn't want my cows to get in it because they could get stuck in the mud, or get sick from drinking the water."

In the interests of his herd's health, said Anderson, the area was going to have to be drained before it could be used.

Before any work to empty the low-lying patch of land was started, however, Anderson was contacted by a member of the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority. That member provided him with

a reference to Ducks Unlimited Canada -the Canadian division of an international charitable organization dedicated to conserving wetland habitats -and the idea to convert his soggy bit of cropland into a duck pond.

Anderson's current waterfowl haven started to take shape after he partnered with Ducks Unlimited under the Species at Risk Farm Incentive Program -a provincial cost-share program for farmers that are investing in Best Management Practices to protect natural spaces on the farm. The provincial government's Grassland Habitat Farm Incentive Program, which offers funding to complete projects that support grassland birds, also covered a portion of the cost for seeding his pasture.

Because the pond was being excavated on ground that was already wet, explained Anderson, they could only work on the project when everything was quite dry. Despite this and the time it takes for new pasture grass to establish itself, though, the whole project was completed in August of 2013.

Perhaps ironically, Anderson said he has not actually seen that many ducks in his new pond yet, but it is definitely a popular resting spot for geese. In the dry summer months, it also acts as a good source of clean drinking water for his cattle, and the

white clover and flowering shrubs planted around the water provide a better habitat for pollinators.

The improved pollinator space, said Anderson, is a particularly good thing since he is also a hobby beekeeper with around 40 beehives.

Significant as his duck pond is, it's not the only environmentally-friendly aspect of the farm. Part of the funding Anderson received was also used to plant two rows of spruce trees to act as a windbreak, and he is also generating renewable energy for the power grid using a large on-farm solar panel.

"I've found that planting a windbreak really helps increase the longevity of the fence and reduce maintenance costs," said Anderson.

"Overall I'm pretty happy with how everything worked out."

This article is one in a series produced by Farm & Food Care Ontario. The stories highlight innovative initiatives in the areas of animal welfare and environmental stewardship in Ontario agriculture. To submit a profile idea, email info@farmfoodcare.org.

Agri Dispatch Jan. 15, 2015

Watershed home to many unique species

Gerard Greces
Strathroy Age Dispatch

While the Sydenham River may provide some excellent scenery to Strathroy, it also serves as a unique habitat for many at-risk species.

The river is home to 34 different species of mussels, as well as 80 species of fish. Because of its location entirely within the Carolinian forest band, the Sydenham watershed is home to some species that are completely isolated from the rest of the world.

"The Sydenham River supports an amazing diversity of aquatic life," said Erin Carroll, Aquatic Biologist for the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority. "There are mussels and clams that exist solely within the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority area."

Some of the rarest species include:

The Rayed Bean mussel, which can only be found in one other location in Canada, and only a handful of places on the continent.

The globally-vulnerable Salamander Mussel is only found in the Sydenham watershed, and the population of Northern Ripple Shell mussels is one of just three around the world. And while the Conservation Authority regularly tests water for chemicals and e-coli, Carroll explained that small invertebrates - some just half a millimetre in size - are the best bio-indicators of the health of the watershed.

And the best way to check the population is to get down and dirty, using a net to capture various species at intervals along the river.

"Based on the species we find, we can tell the health of the watershed," she said.

Every five years, the conservation authority puts out a watershed report card, with the last such report published in 2013. The reason for the five year interval is to ensure enough data exists to confidently 'paint a picture' of the watershed, Carroll explained.

"That way there is an ability to see the health of the water course is improving or degrading over time," she added.

Invertebrates like clams or mussels are dependent on fish for transportation. The young latch onto a host fish and are carried to different locations. But getting that host to appear takes some clever work on

behalf of the traveler. One of the more amazing examples found right here in the Sydenham area is the Rainbow Mussel, which uses a lure shaped like a crayfish to attract fish.

The Sydenham River is relatively unimpacted by development, surrounded by mainly agricultural land and small towns. However, agriculture does provide some challenges for watershed health. Siltation, excess nutrients and toxic chemicals are all side-effects of agriculture. But, landowners are enthusiastic about being proactive, Carroll said. Working with the SCRCA on stewardship projects includes tree planting and wetland creation, as well as agricultural erosion control, buffer strips and wildlife habitat creation.

"If you can prevent the nutrients and sediment from reaching the water course in the first place it's better than treating it afterward," Carroll said. "For a couple years we've been working specifically in Sydenham head waters."

This year the conservation authority will continue with more fish monitoring. Over the past three years in the headwater area alone there are 115 acres of stewardship projects, and last year as a whole the SCRCA gave out \$226,000 in grants for 34 new stewardship projects.

Walk in the Woods



Heather Wright
The Independent

On a morning when most people snuggled a little deeper into the covers because of the cold, a hearty group of hikers were readying themselves for a two-hour hike in the snow.

The members of the Lambton

Outdoor Club have been getting together to go canoeing, kayaking, and cycling in the warm weather months. They also brave the cold, skiing together and going on hikes. Erine Lind of Petrolia is an original member of the club. He was among about 20 hikers at Lorne C. Henderson Conservation Area Saturday to spend some time

in nature.

"I joined 20 years ago, before I retired," he says. "A bunch of people started canoeing together, they'd call each other 'let's go here or there' and then there was a newsletter; it kept growing and growing where we're up to about 200 members now."

One of their prime activities is

hiking, which they do year round.

As they prepared to head out on the trail for the two-hour hike, Lind admitted it was a little cold, but the hikers were prepared and Lorne C. Henderson was a great spot to walk.

"We don't walk the open country because of the chill factor; there are a few hearty people that will, but it's mostly in the bush," he says.

But with the temperature around -13 C, even a walk in the bush was too cool for some.

"We got calls this morning, I think he was still under the covers when he called, 'Oh, the wife and I think it's too cold,'" says Lind. "As far as I'm concerned, it's their loss if they don't come out."

The group travels all over Lambton County to hike trails, including

in Sarnia at the Howard Watson Trail or Canatara Park or along the St. Clair River or even the Bruce Trail.

Jan. 24 the group will hike in Bickford Woods, one of Lambton County's largest woodlots in St. Clair Township. Lind calls it a hidden gem.

"There are a lot of places out here that people don't realize are around unless you join the Outdoors Club and we take you," he says.

And Lind says anyone can join - you don't even need special equipment. "Just get a good pair of boots and maybe today because the ground is frozen, get a walking stick because that helps," says Lind "and thermal underwear; whatever you feel you need to fight the weather."

Heather Wright Photos

Members of the Lambton Outdoors Club were exploring Lorne C. Henderson Conservation Area Saturday.



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MASSEY FERGUSON

Today's Farmer

Harry and Shirley Buurma presented with Outstanding Farmer Award

Tue Jan 27 2015

Page: 12

Section: News

Byline: JOHN PHAIR TODAY'S FARMER

Illustrations: Shirley and Harry Buurma are this year's recipients of the Lambton County Outstanding Farmer of the Year Award. The annual award, which is hosted jointly by the Lambton County Soil and Crop Improvement Association, Parkland Farms and the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority, is presented each year to a farmer who has demonstrated conservation farming practices. From left is Shirley and Harry Buurma receiving the award from LSCIA director Fraser Hodgson. ;

The recipients of this year's Lambton County Outstanding Farmer Award are no strangers to Lambton County's agricultural community.

The award, hosted jointly by the Lambton Soil and Crop Improvement Association (LSCIA), Parkland Farms, and The St. Clair Conservation Authority, was presented to Harry and Shirley Buurma who farm in the Watford area.

Making the presentation recently at the annual meeting of the Lambton Soil and Crop Improvement Association, was LSCIA director Fraser Hodgson, who noted that this year's recipients were well-known to everyone in the room.

Hodgson noted that Harry Buurma was a relative latecomer to farming.

Having grown up on a dairy farm in Bosanquet Township, Harry started a dairy equipment business in 1975 and continued in that enterprise until it was taken over by his son, Glenn, in 1996.

He noted that Harry didn't begin farming until 1988, when he purchased the first of many farms he would own over his 25 years of farming.

"Land was reasonably priced in those early

years because it was a period of very high interest rates," said Hodgson, adding that many farms became available at relatively low prices for a short period of time.

He pointed out that Harry grew mainly soybeans and wheat in the beginning and later introduced corn into the rotation.

"He felt that corn would be profitable only if harvested dry in the spring," he said.

"This show Harry became well known as the 'the farmer with corn outstanding in his field.'"

He said ploughing land didn't appeal to Harry so he practiced no-till right from the beginning.

However, he soon found working in wheat stubble was a huge challenge and realized that he had to do some fall tillage.

Hodgson said he tried many types of low-tillage and conservation tillage systems over the 25 years he farmed.

"If something failed to work to his expectations, he didn't hesitate to try something else," he said.

He noted that Buurma credits much of his success to OMAFRA extension people

such as Peter Johnson whose guidance was invaluable to him during his farming career.

Family is also highly important to the couple.

Being happily married for 41 years Harry and Shirley have 12 children, six of their own and six adopted. In addition, they served as foster parents to numerous children over the years.

At last count the couple had 26 grandchildren.

Recently, Harry sold some of his farms to sons Glen, Roger and David and now sharecrops the remainder with Roger and David.

They also have a son Bruce, who farms in Michigan.

Hodgson noted that the farm organizations that Harry has served on forms an impressive list, having been a member or director of organizations such as the Lambton Soil and Crop Improvement Association, Lambton Wheat, Soy and Corn Committees, Lambton Federation of Agriculture, Southwest Ag Conference, Lambton Woodlot Committee, to name a few.

On the personal front, he is involved with volunteer organizations such as Victim Services, Rebound, Canadian Cancer Society and the Children's Aid Society.

Hodgson noted that the couple's Christian faith continues to be a very important part of their lives and has influenced the way Harry has conducted his business.

"To him the road less travelled has always been more interesting," he said. Because he questions everything, Harry has experienced many different aspects of life that most of us here today never will."

Dave Park of Parkland Farms congratulated the Buurmas for being passionate and supportive members of Lambton County's agricultural community.

"It is something you should not take lightly because of all the hard work you have done over the years," he said.

Speaking on behalf of the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority, St. Clair Township mayor Steve Arnold thanked the Buurmas for the work they have done over the years and for standing up for things that were just a little different.

"That sets an example for farmers all over this county and makes them think that possibly they should try something different," said Arnold.

In accepting the award, Buurma said his career had been a "wonderful journey" and thanked those present for the privilege of working with them over the years.

He noted that it was the concept of no-till that first got him interested in farming and help from OMAFRA extension people who helped him survive at farming.

He added that over the years it was all the mistakes that were made in test plots led to more test plots.

"It was that kind of research that made our yields respectable," he said.

He noted that through working with the



Summer maximums haven't changed, but winter highs are much warmer.

Winter change

Winter is getting shorter, and this Ontario study found the growing season is four weeks longer

Instead of calling it climate change, maybe the phrase should be “winter change.” For the last six years, Trevor Dickinson, professor emeritus and a team from the University of Guelph have been studying temperature records from across Ontario, most of which date back 70 years, with some as old as 145 years, and their big finding is that our winters are warming much faster than our summers.

“We thought that we’d just look at the temperature data, and we found that yes, temperatures have been going up, and they have been going up — for any of the stations — for as long as there are records,” says Dickinson.

Then Dickinson and some of his colleagues took a closer look, monitoring daily types of temperature data, since he’d been studying those while engaging in earlier research work. “What are daily temperatures doing, and not only that, what are extreme maximum temperatures doing?” asked Dickinson. “That gave us some surprises.”

It turned out that Ontario's extreme summer temperatures, i.e. the highest temperature this year versus last year, etc., haven't gone up at all.

But the extreme minimums in winter did go up, and in many years, they've shown a considerable jump.

Similarly, summer minimum (i.e. nighttime) temperatures have gone up a little, but winter minimums have gone up much more.

“When the minimum dailies go up in the winter, it means the number of frost days goes down... the number of nights we go below freezing starts to decrease,” says Dickinson. “Across southern Ontario, we've gained 25 frost-free days in the last century. That's almost a month just in the winter period.”

Dickinson's team also looked at winter precipitation. With fewer frost days, there's the potential for snowfall to turn to rainfall. There's also a greater potential for more snowmelt, due to warmer winter temperatures, fewer frost days, and more rainfall and more snowmelt during those “winter shoulder” periods (late November into December and then in March).



It all means that run-off and stream flows were likely much smaller 50 years ago, Dickinson suspects. He has begun to examine some of the stream-flow hydrographs across Ontario. Even though results are limited, he is seeing winter flows that are up and in some cases double what they were.

That seems to support anecdotal evidence from associates who monitor tile flow, and reporting more tiles running in the winter compared to years ago when they didn't.

Dickinson cautions against reading too much into these results: if winter flows in the past were one per cent, doubling means they've only risen to two per cent. Still, the bottom line on this branch of his research is that winter flows are increasing.

"It means there's more water moving," says

Dickinson. He adds that if there's less snowfall and more snowmelt in the winter, it suggests that the end-of-winter snowpack will be smaller, leading to the potential for a smaller spring freshet. "We're just beginning to look at the hydrographs that way in these natural areas, and sure enough, the spring freshets are down and occurring a little earlier."

THE ROAD (OR WATERWAY) AHEAD

There are also more facets of Dickinson's research that may have more direct impacts on farm and crop management. In spite of the fact that the more concrete change has come in winter, Dickinson has heard from another Guelph professor emeritus, Dr. David Hume.

"He has encouraged me to look at other things — that if frost-free days have gone up, well, what about heat units?" poses Dickinson. "So we've toyed with some of those, and even with the summer maxes, the extremes haven't gone up, but nighttime temperatures (in summer) have gone up a little bit."

Farmers can help themselves in many ways, he adds, noting that most know the parts of their fields where surface water collects or that experience the most run-off. If they can put measures in place that limit that — or enable it to run under the surface, for instance with properly installed Hickenbottoms and tile drainage systems — then those practices do more to help mitigate the impact of weather. **CG**

Shorter winters will mean more snowmelt, so low spots merit better flood protection.

Phragmites group receives honourable mention for environmental excellence

By Kimberly Powell-McConaghy

The Lambton Shores Phragmites Community Group (LSPCG) has been recognized provincially for its work in removing the invasive weed and restoring habitats throughout the municipality.

On January 20, 2015, the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change recognized out-

standing achievements in environmental protection. Nine groups across Ontario were awarded, plus honourable mention given to the LSPCG and Summerhill Impact Group for demonstrating their strong commitment to environmental excellence by using innovative approaches and new technologies to protect the great lakes and the environment.

"I am extremely

pleased to hear that our Lambton Shores Phragmites Group is receiving provincial recognition for the good work they are doing," says Lambton Shores Mayor Bill Weber. "With their dedication and passion, they convey a strong message of commitment to the environment and our community."

The LSPCG is working with cottage owners to remove Phragmites, an in-

vasive reed that is damaging Ontario's wetlands. The group has mapped the occurrence of all invasive Phragmites, developed a control plan and trained front line staff (municipal, conservation authorities and contractors).

The program reduced Phragmites by 85 to 95 per cent and increased human and wildlife activity along the shoreline and riverbanks, restored habitat for many species, and

improved water quality.

Minister of the Environment and Climate Change, Glen R. Murray says just a few of the most outstanding efforts of individuals, groups, and companies in protecting our environment were celebrated. "We hope the examples we see today inspire others to be innovators in protecting our natural heritage; not only because it's good for the environment, but because

innovation helps build a strong economy, and create new jobs," he adds.

The Minister's Award for Environmental Excellence recognizes and encourages environmental excellence, fosters innovation and raises awareness about the importance of protecting the environment. Since 2011, the program has recognized the environmental achievements of 40 organizations.

Forest Std. Feb 5/2015