

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