

February 19, 2015

The 2015 Annual General Meeting of the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority was held on the above date, at the Community Centre in Courtright, at the hour of 10:00 a.m.

Present: Steve Arnold, Bill Bilton, Diane Brewer, Alan Broad, Tony Bruinink, Andy Bruziewicz, Terry Burrell, Todd Case, Norm Giffen, Anne Marie Gillis, Rod Glen, Larry Gordon, Kevin Marriott, Don McCallum, John McCharles, Dan McMillan, Steve Miller, Frank Nemcek, John Romlewski, Gerry Rupke, Cindy Scholten, Muriel Wright.

Absent: David Boushy, Joe Faas, Mike Kelch, Betty Ann MacKinnon, Netty McEwen, Jeff Wesley, Anne Gilbert, Ben Phay.

Special Guests: Bev MacDougall, Lambton County Warden; Larry MacKenzie, Village of Point Edward; Ron Challis, Village of Newbury; Bob Woolvett, Plympton-Wyoming; John Fraser, M.P.P. McNaughton's office; Ron Van Horne, County of Lambton; Jim Kutuba, County of Lambton; Cam McCauley, Ministry of Natural Resources & Forestry; Ted Briggs, Ministry of the Environment & Climate Change; Darrell Randel, Ducks Unlimited; Jake Lozon, RLSN, Lindsay Buchanan; RLSN, Ken Williams; Woods Pearson & Associates; Dean Edwardson, SLEA.

Conservation Award Winners: Tearza & Taryn Daly, Butch Siebenmorgen of Bonduelle Foods, Bev MacDougall and Ron Van Horne of the County of Lambton; Marina Plain, Christine Rogers, Sharilyn Johnston, Ted White of the Aamjiwnaang First Nation Environment Committee.

Media: Paul Morden, Sarnia Observer/Chatham Daily News.

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Steve Arnold, who on behalf of the directors and staff of the Conservation Authority welcomed everyone to the 2015 annual meeting. He advised that we had a very successful year in 2014 and encouraged everyone to take a look at our Annual Report. In his opening remarks, Chair, Steve Arnold, highlighted the Authority's emphasis on Community Conservation and role of the Authority in working with a wide variety of partners. He explained that the Conservation Authority will continue to be innovative and focused on the needs of our watershed and our member municipalities. He thanked the many partners who have joined with the Authority in order to make safer and healthier watersheds.

BD-15-001

Glen - Romlewski

"That the agenda for the Annual General Meeting be adopted."

CARRIED

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

BD-15-002

Bruinink – Marriott

"That the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting held December 11, 2014, be approved as distributed."

CARRIED

BD-15-003

Romlewski - Nemcek

“That the minutes of the Source Protection Authority Board of Directors meeting held December 11, 2014, be approved as distributed.”

CARRIED

BD-15-004

Miller - Bilton

“That the minutes of the Executive Committee meeting held February 5, 2015, be approved as distributed.”

CARRIED

A staff report regarding MLC File CA 002-14 was discussed.

- under the Mining and Lands Commissioner mediation services process, an acceptable resolution of maximum permissible area of 200 m² has been reached and the Authority’s solicitor recommends the Board of Directors approve the following motion pertaining to the permissible square area.

BD-15-005

Gillis – Bruinink

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges that through the Mining and Lands Commissioner mediation services process, a resolution has been reached by the parties pertaining to permissible development area, and further that the Board accept the resolution presented by the Authority’s solicitor in respect to Core’s vs SCRCA, MLC File CA 002-14, which approves the construction of a habitable addition with a total square area not greater than 45 m² onto the relocated existing dwelling, which with the proposed attached garage of 50 m², results in the permissible development area to be a total square area not greater than 200 m², conditional on the following:

- 1. 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 200 m²;**
- 2. Committee of Adjustment approval;**
- 3. the approval is based on relocation of the existing dwelling as per the application #10852;**
- 4. as proposed works are subject/conditional upon relocation of existing dwelling onto new foundation outside the 60 year recession rate, therefore, need to provide professional civil engineering certification that existing 105 m² total square area dwelling can be relocated as is without requiring reinforcing and/or reconstruction of the existing structure and that the engineer be provided a copy of this condition;**
- 5. proof of registration of OLS survey on title showing the 60 yr. erosion hazard limit along with registered acknowledgement agreement on title;**
- 6. proper grading/drainage plan;**
- 7. removal of detached garage.”**

CARRIED

Two reports highlighting the restoration at Bowen’s Creek Conservation Lands and the progress on the St. Clair Remedial Action Plan were presented.

BD-15-006

Marriott – McCharles

“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.”

CARRIED

The 2014 Audited Financial Statements were discussed.

BD-15-007

Nemcek - Burrell

“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.”

CARRIED

Four Conservation Awards were presented:

- the first award was presented to Tearza and Taryn Daly. Tearza Daly and her 11 year old daughter Taryn have been organizing a Great Shoreline Cleanup along with family and friends. They have shown great community spirit by cleaning up the beach at the Highland Glen Conservation Area and They plan to continue this effort in the spring of 2015. To date, their group has collected 215 lbs. of garbage and recyclables from that park and beach area. This is a great example of individuals and communities taking action to make their local Conservation Area a better place. This contribution to the community and conservation is very commendable.
- the next award was presented to Bonduelle. Bonduelle is a company, with a plant in Strathroy, that is a leader in processing and packaging vegetables. Bounduelle has a mission of creating healthy lifestyles and this mission is what brought them to support a great project at the Strathroy Conservation Area. The project, undertaken with a \$10,000 donation from Bounduelle, began with a clean-up of the park and trail area followed by the construction of trails and picnic facilities. Through this project 400 metres of new trail were constructed along the lake, four picnic tables on cement pads, including one wheel chair accessible table, were constructed and two park benches were installed along the new lake trail. In addition to funds, Boundelle staff participated in the development of the trail putting in some excellent sweat equity.
- the third award was presented to the County of Lambton. The County owns a wonderful piece of property located along the St. Clair Parkway near the Lambton generating Plant called Bowen’s Creek. The County supported efforts of the Conservation Authority to initiate a project on this property which is within the heart of Carolinian Canada and within the St. Clair River Area of Concern. It is biologically connected to woodlands and provincially significant wetlands treasured for their unique biodiversity. The Bowen’s Creek project started in 2011 with the construction of eight hectares of wetland. Last year, hundreds of waterfowl were using the new wetlands as a migratory stop-over. Since 2011, 51,000 trees and 5 hectares of tall grass prairie were planted to enhance the existing 20 hectare site. With Lambton County’s support, many partners have joined in to be involved with this project and including the federal government through the Great Lakes Sustainability Fund, Trees Ontario, Ducks Unlimited Canada, Shell Fuelling Change, Enbridge, RBC Foundation, St. Clair Region Conservation Foundation and Authority, and the Friends of the St. Clair River. Without the support of the County, this project would not have been possible.
- the final award was presented to the Aamjiwnaang First Nation Environment Committee. The Environment Committee has been instrumental in the implementation and advancement of the St. Clair River Remedial Action Plan. Their participation ensures that the interests of the

Aamjiwnaang First Nation community are reflected in actions that would lead to the delisting of the St. Clair River as an Area of Concern. In 2013-2014, the Committee coordinated efforts to restore a stretch of Talfourd Creek adjacent to the Community Centre in Bear Park. The main goal of the project was to bring the creek back into the lives of the community. By restoring the creek, it is hoped that a new appreciation of the creek is fostered, therefore returning the creek to the people. These contributions to the community and conservation are very commendable.

BD-15-008

Glen - Bilton

“That the Board of Directors congratulates the 2014 Conservation Award Winners and thanks them for their contributions to conservation.”

CARRIED

2015 service awards were presented:

5 years of service:

Frank Nemcek representing the Township of Brooke Alvinston
Erin Carroll, Aquatic Biologist
Girish Sankar, Manager of Water Resources

10 years of service:

Steve Arnold, representing the Township of St. Clair
Tony Bruinink, representing the Municipality of Strathroy-Caradoc
Alison Seidler, GIS Specialist

20 years of service:

Bill Bilton, representing the Township of Dawn-Euphemia

25 years of service:

Patty Hayman, Director of Planning

BD-15-009

Marriott - McCharles

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

CARRIED

One member left the Board over the last year. Earlier in the term, Elizabeth Davis-Dagg, representing the Municipality of Lambton Shores, was replaced by Gerry Rupke. We have several other members leaving the Board this year as of this meeting: Anne Gilbert, representing the Municipality of Chatham-Kent; Ben Phay, representing the Municipality of Middlesex Centre; Netty McEwen, representing the Town of Plympton-Wyoming; John Romlewski, representing the Village of Point Edward; Terry Burrell, representing the City of Sarnia; David Boushy, representing the City of Sarnia; Anne Marie Gillis, representing the City of Sarnia; Don McCallum, representing the Municipality of Southwest Middlesex and Newbury; Rod Glen, representing the Township of Warwick and Bill Bilton representing the Township of Dawn-Euphemia. There was a very large turnover in the board. The chair thanked all these members for their contributions to this board. A short break allowed directors to meet with Conservation Award winners.

The meeting then continued when Chair, Steve Arnold, welcomed Jeff Wesley, representing the Municipality of Chatham-Kent; Alan Broad, representing the Township of Dawn Euphemia; Dan McMillan, representing the Municipality of Middlesex Centre; Muriel Wright, representing the Town of Plympton-Wyoming; Larry Gordon, representing the Village of Point Edward; Mike Kelch, representing the City of Sarnia; Cindy Scholten, representing the City of Sarnia; Andy Bruziewicz, representing the City of Sarnia; Diane Brewer, representing the Municipality of Southwest Middlesex and Newbury and Todd Case, representing the Township of Warwick.

BD-15-010

Broad - McCharles

“That Bill Bilton be appointed chairperson for the election of the 2015 Chairman and Vice Chairman.”

CARRIED

BD-15-011

Miller - McMillan

“That Ted Briggs and Dean Edwardson be appointed scrutineer’s in the event of an election.”

CARRIED

The positions of Chair and Vice Chair were declared vacant and nominations were called for the office of Chairman for 2015.

Steve Miller nominated Steve Arnold for position of chair.

Larry Gordon nominated Andy Bruziewicz for the position of chair

BD-15-012

Broad – Rupke

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

CARRIED

Steve Arnold and Andy Bruziewicz both advised they would stand as Chair. Both nominees spoke and an election was held.

Steve Arnold was declared Chair of the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority for 2015.

Tony Bruinink nominated Norm Giffen for the position of Vice Chair.

BD-15-013

Arnold - Miller

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

CARRIED

Norm Giffen was declared Vice Chair of the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority for 2015.

BD-15-014

Miller – Nemcek

“That ballots be destroyed.”

CARRIED

Steve Arnold, Chair of the Nominating Committee presented the Nominating Committee report for 2015.

With the election of Norm Giffen as Vice Chair, an additional person was required on the Low Water Response and Executive Committees. Andy Bruziewicz nominated Larry Gordon to the Executive Committee and Dan McMillan volunteered for the Low Water Response Committee.

BD-15-015

Bruziewicz - Wright

“That the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority adopts the 2015 Nominating Committee's Report, with changes as noted.”

CARRIED

BD-15-016

Broad - Bruinink

“That the 2015 Executive Committee for the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority be: Steve Arnold, Chairman; Norm Giffen, Vice Chairman; Andy Bruziewicz, Joe Faas, Tony Bruinink, Larry Gordon, Jeff Wesley, Betty Ann MacKinnon and Steve Miller.”

CARRIED

The 2015 budget was considered. Two votes on the budget were required. The first vote for non-matching levy utilized a weighted vote. A recorded vote based on weighting on the non-matching general levy was held.

BD-15-017

Nemcek - Miller

“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.”

CARRIED

The final vote represented 58.7% in favour based on the total CVA in attendance.

BD-15-018

Broad – Scholten

“That Authority staff work towards a 0% increase in the 2016 budget.”

CARRIED

BD-15-019

Miller – McMillan

“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.”

CARRIED

The 2015 borrowing bylaw was considered.

BD-15-020

Bruziewicz – Bruinink

“That the Authority Chairman or the Vice Chairman and the General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer or Director of Finance 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.”

CARRIED

Appointment of an Auditor for 2015 was considered.

BD-15-021

Marriott - Rupke

“That Woods, Pearson & Associates Chartered Accountants LLP be appointed auditors for the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority for 2015.”

CARRIED

The 2015 appointments to Conservation Ontario were considered.

BD-15-022

Miller - Nemcek

“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.”

CARRIED

Al Broad, director from Dawn-Euphemia welcomed everyone to participate in the Sydenham Canoe Race on April 19th.

Frank Nemcek, director from Brooke-Alvinston welcomed everyone to attend the Maple Syrup Festival on March 21st & 22nd.

The General Manager’s Report was presented:

- 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.
- 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.

BD-15-023

Wright - McMillan

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the General Manager’s report dated February 6, 2015.”

CARRIED

A staff report on water levels, current and flood conditions 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 2013/2014
- **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 slightly 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. 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 when lake effect snowfall dominated and continued 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 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. The overall ice conditions will continue to be assessed into February with on-ice surveys. 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**
 - February – 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) continue to forecast

below normal temperatures into February. By comparison with long term average temperatures were significantly below the average of -5C° for extended periods in January. 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.

- 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 continues to form across Lake Huron due to colder temperatures. 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 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.

BD-15-024

Scholten - Bruziewicz

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated February 5, 2015, regarding current watershed conditions and Great Lakes water levels.”

CARRIED

A staff report regarding Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure projects was discussed.

- continue to wrap up several WECI projects that were approved for 2014- 2015.
- 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
 - a sink hole has formed at floodway
 - sink hole formed due to failing couplers that connect 2 pipe/culvert section
 - repair work was completed in January 2015
- 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.

BD-15-025

Scholten - Miller

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated February 6, 2015 on the ongoing Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure projects across the watershed.”

CARRIED

A staff report regarding Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure projects submitted for funding in 2015-16 was discussed.

- potential applications for WECEI projects are being reviewed by Authority Staff
- 2015- 2016 Projects should be submitted by February 19 2015
- once submitted, all applications will be reviewed by a committee of provincial and conservation authority staff representatives in March and will be ranked in comparison to all submitted projects from across the Province
- list of approved projects is anticipated in May or early June
- list of potential WECEI projects is outlined below

Structure	Project Name	Description of Work	Total Project Cost (\$)	Grant Requested (\$)
Sarnia Shoreline Protection	Shoreline Repair (Helen and Kenwick Sts) Phase 1	Carry out construction of Phase 1 from the recommendation of Engineering study.	500,000	250,000
McKeough Floodway	McKeough Floodway Berm Repair	Perform additional repair work along the floodway to stabilize a section of the berm	\$100,000	\$50,000
McKeough Floodway	McKeough Floodway Culvert Repair	Perform additional culvert replacement work on all failing culverts	\$160,000	\$80,000
ARDA dykes	Hazard Tree Removal	Remove trees, shrubs and debris that have the potential to cause slope stability issues	\$10,000	\$5,000
Esli Dodge Dam	Esli Dodge Repair Project	Repair of Concrete cable/ retaining wall	\$10,000	\$5,000
L.C.Henderson Weir #1	L.C.H. Outfall Repair Project	Spillway Repair	\$20,000	\$10,000

BD-15-026

Bruinink - McMillan

“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.”

CARRIED

The Regulations Activity Reports dated January 31, 2015, was reviewed.

BD-15-027

Scholten - Miller

“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.”

CARRIED

The November and December’s Municipal Drain activity report was presented.

BD-15-028

Nemcek - Wright

“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).”

CARRIED

The Planning Department’s November and December 2014 and January 2015 Planning Activity Summary Reports were discussed.

BD-15-029

McMillan - Bruinink

“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.”

CARRIED

A schedule of Special Events was reviewed:

- 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

BD-15-030

Wright - Bruziewicz

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

CARRIED

Direction regarding tenders received for the reconstruction of the entrance roadway to the lake side at the Warwick Conservation Area was considered.

BD-15-031

Broad - Miller

“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 1838120 Ontario Limited at a cost of \$77,870.00 plus H.S.T., be accepted and that the Chair and General Manager are authorized to sign contracts for the project.”

CARRIED

A staff report regarding Lambton Shores – Healthy Lake Huron program was discussed.

BD-15-032

McMillan - Bruinink

“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.”

CARRIED

A report regarding the conclusion of the Healthy Sydenham Headwaters funding from the Ontario Trillium Foundation was reviewed.

- 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%! 121.2 acres of land were restored over the past three years in this region.
 - Upcoming events: *February 6 2015*: Middlesex Soil & Crop Improvement Association AGM, Ilderton

BD-15-033

Miller - Nemcek

“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.”

CARRIED

A report on 2015 Surface Water Quality and Aquatic Biomonitoring Programs were explained.

- 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 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.

- Aquatic 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 cannot 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.
- 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.

BD-15-034

Rupke - Bruziewicz

“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.”

CARRIED

A staff report regarding McKeough Property Management Plans was considered.

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

BD-15-035

Gordon - Scholten

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated February 6, 2015 regarding McKeough Property Management Plans that include short and long-term recommendations to improve agricultural sustainability, water quality, and wildlife habitat on the properties.”

CARRIED

A staff report regarding the variety of interpretive signs was presented.

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- “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.
- Wawanosh Wetlands
 - two signs have been installed by the SCRCA outlining the benefits of wetlands and providing a brief history of the property.
- Forest Sewage Lagoons – Benefits of Wetlands
- Alexandra Park (Strathroy) – Making a Healthier Stream

BD-15-036

Bruziewicz - Wright

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated February 6, 2015 regarding the variety of interpretive signs installed throughout the St. Clair Region.”

CARRIED

Minutes of the Joint Health and Safety Committee were reviewed.

BD-15-037

McCharles - Rupke

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the minutes of the September 25, 2014 Joint Health and Safety Committee meeting.”

CARRIED

Under New Business:

- reminder of a meeting regarding Ipperwash Beach on February 26th.
- request to go paperless. Directors to let Marlene know if they wish to receive a digital meeting file in future.

BD-15-038

Miller - Marriott

“That the meeting be adjourned.”



Steve Arnold
Chair

Brian McDougall
General Manager

Attached to original minutes: weighted levy voting sheet

2015 Budget Vote

		In attendance	In favour	Opposed
Betty Ann MacKinnon - Township of Adelaide-Metcalf	1.6688			
Frank Nemcek - Township of Brooke-Alvinston	1.5879	y	y	
Joe Faas - Municipality of Chatham-Kent	6.6482			
Jeff Wesley - Municipality of Chatham-Kent	6.6482			
Alan Broad - Township of Dawn-Euphemia	2.4498	y		y
Kevin Marriott - Township of Enniskillen	1.7303	y		y
Kevin Marriott - Village of Oil Springs	0.1988	y		y
Gerry Rupke - Township of Lambton Shores	4.9046	y	y	
Dan McMillan - Township of Middlesex Centre	2.0763	y	y	
Diane Brewer - Village of Newbury	0.152	y		y
Diane Brewer - Township of Southwest Middlesex	1.1237	y		y
John McCharles - Town of Petrolia	2.4383	y		y
Muriel Wright - Town of Plympton - Wyoming	5.0718	y		y
Larry Gordon - Village of Point Edward	2.3978	y		y
Cindy Scholten - City of Sarnia	13.2536	y	y	
Andy Bruziewicz - City of Sarnia	13.2535	y		y
Mike Kelch - City of Sarnia	13.2535			
Steve Arnold - Township of St. Clair	5.4696	y	y	
Steve Miller - Township of St. Clair	5.4695	y	y	
Tony Bruinink - Township of Strathroy- Caradoc	4.094	y	y	
Norm Giffen - Township of Strathroy - Caradoc	4.094	y	y	
Todd Case - Township of Warwick	2.0158			
CVA Totals	100	69.7655	40.95	28.816

58.7% 41.3%