

June 25, 2015

The Board of Directors Meeting of the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority was held on the above date, at the Warwick Conservation Area, Warwick, at approximately 1:30 p.m.

Present: Steve Arnold, Chair; Diane Brewer, Alan Broad, Tony Bruinink, Andy Bruziewicz, Todd Case, Joe Faas, Larry Gordon, Betty Ann MacKinnon, Kevin Marriott, Steve Miller, Frank Nemcek, Gerry Rupke, Cindy Scholten, Jeff Wesley, Muriel Wright

Absent: Norm Giffen, Vice Chair; Mike Kelch, John McCharles, Dan McMillan

Also Present: Brian McDougall, General Manager; Kevan Baker, Director of Lands; Girish Sankar, Manager of Water Resources; Muriel Andreae, Manager of Biology; Patty Hayman, Director of Planning; Dallas Cundick, Environmental Planner/Regulations Officer; Tracy Prince, Director of Finance; Rick Battson, Director of Communications; Marlene Dorrestyn, Administrative Assistant

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

BD-15-076

Bruinink - MacKinnon

“That the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting, held April 23, 2015, be approved as distributed.”

CARRIED

The General Manager’s Report was presented:

- Ipperwash Beach Management Working Group
 - as directed by the Board at their February meeting, I have been attended the working group meetings as the Authority’s representative
 - this group was established to provide a forum for the parties to discuss their views regarding Ipperwash Beach, share perspectives, reconcile differences, and seek an agreement about the management of the beach
 - the group met 9 times and were able to achieve a verbal agreement by all parties regarding the establish signage and control structures that will all but eliminate motorized vehicles on the centre Ipperwash section of the beach for 2015
 - the Ipperwash Beach Management Working Group process, which was scheduled to end in May, came to a close on June 9, with a final meeting
 - the working group was able to settle on shared values that include public safety, environmental protection, historic uses, and protection of property, and this will form a basis for future discussions
 - Kettle Stony Point First Nation chose to step back from the working group process at the end of May stating that it did not appear that common ground could be found for a long term solution and that their representatives did not feel respected at Group meetings

- both Mayor Weber and Chief Bressette noted their appreciation for all the group participants and each agreed to continue discussions and to work together on many shared community interests, especially in the areas of infrastructure and economic development
- Mayor Weber and Chief Bressette are both candid in recognizing that reaching a long term agreement on uses affecting Ipperwash Beach will not be quick or easy, both have both committed to an ongoing dialogue on issues and opportunities of importance to both their communities
- the long term management plan for the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forests (MNRF) properties continues to be considered
- these properties have provided the public with access to the beach, washroom facilities, garbage collection and off street parking
- due to funding cutbacks and reduced focus on recreation, MNRF is no longer able to undertake maintenance on these properties and there was concern that Ontario Parks, who has been helping with maintenance in the recent past, would no longer able to assist however, it has been confirmed that they will be able to assist in the maintenance through 2015
- MNRF continues to seek one group to act as a lead in a community cooperative group and sign an agreement to undertake the long term management and maintenance of these Provincially owned properties
- the Authority, the Municipality of Lambton Shores and the Kettle and Stony Point First Nation and MNRF are continuing discussions regarding such a long term arrangement
- maintenance of these properties cannot be accomplished within the Authority's current work regimen and significant changes would be require to service this area at the level being discussed
- Conservation Authorities' Biennial Tour
 - the Biennial Tour returns this fall with the Grand River and Long Point Region Conservation Authority's as host for 2015
 - Please contact Marlene or myself with any questions or if you wish to attend
- Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Mayor's Conference
 - the Authority will be hosting a booth at the conference in Sarnia later this week
 - partnering with the St. Clair River Area of Concern we will be highlighting works completed on the St. Clair River shoreline as well as some of the projects that we have been working on under the Healthy Lake Huron Centre program
 - additional information will be provided at the Board meeting
- Corporate Compensation Review
 - staff have been able to obtain almost all the preferred comparables and have completed most of the analysis on the information in hand
 - a consultant, Deborah Ward, has been engaged to provide third party review and to compile a report and recommendations
 - in 2002, the Board of Directors approved the use of Lambton County's Job Evaluation System (Associium Consultants, August 2000)
 - the Authority has been using this system to date
 - Lambton County staff have been very helpful in providing information on their revised system and it appears to be a good fit for the Authority as well

- staff will be reviewing the system over the summer
- a full report on the Compensation Review as well as any recommended changes to our existing Corporate Compensation Plan and Job Evaluation Techniques at the Board meeting in September

BD-15-077

Marriott - Faas

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the General Manager’s report, dated June 15, 2015.”

CARRIED

Conservation Ontario minutes of the March 30, 2015 meeting were reviewed.

BD-15-078

Miller - Rupke

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the Conservation Ontario’s minutes of March 30, 2015 as well as a verbal report from the Conservation Ontario Board Meeting of June 22, 2015.”

CARRIED

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

- show recorded vote for budget with February 19, 2015 minutes – *a copy of the recorded vote was sent out with the April board minutes*
- concern that Parks Canada will not be able to do all the work required and felt that St. Clair would be the obvious organization to help – *see Brian’s report*
- Hazard land fragmentation:
 - *fees will not be imposed; in actuality, there should be a reduction in staff time requirements as planning applications are not brought forward for review/comment and with no lot(s) created; potential for future regulation issues/violation should be lower.*
 - *next steps: SCRCA staff have discussed the concept with several key municipal planners. They see merit in concept. Sarnia planning has examined the potential for severance and see the need in formalizing guidelines and policy. County of Lambton sees merit in some situations. Planners contacted wish to be involved in development of principles and policy. Time permitting, CA staff to draft principles and coordinate meetings.*
- request that electricity for laptops be made available for those directors using that method for their meeting packages – *electrical power bars will be available.*

BD-15-079

Bruzewicz - Bruinink

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the updates on business arising from the April 23, 2015 Board of Director’s meeting.”

CARRIED

A Conservation Lands Update was reviewed:

- Conservation Areas:
 - the Conservation Authority owns 15 conservation areas in the watershed

- of those 15 Conservation Areas, 6 are managed by the local municipality and 9 are operated by the Conservation Authority
- of these 9, 3 conservation areas are regional campgrounds which attract campers from primarily Southwestern Ontario
- our three regional campgrounds have over 500 campsites and have 418 seasonal campers
- profits obtained from our campgrounds are used to offset capital improvements
- the camping season in 2015 runs from Friday, May 1st to Thanksgiving Day
- Warwick Conservation Area:
 - the new entrance roadway has been completed, it was ready for vehicle traffic prior to the Victoria Day weekend
 - 15 new picnic tables have been purchased & distributed
 - 11 existing 15 amp campsites have been upgraded to 30 amp
 - the pool washroom and pump house has been resided with steel
 - roads have been upgraded with gravel
 - a superintendent's office has been constructed within the existing workshop
 - a new campground reservation and accounting system has been implemented
- L.C. Henderson Conservation Area:
 - 15 new picnic tables have been purchased & distributed
 - upgrades have been completed to the WIFI system
 - roads have been upgraded with gravel
 - the main pavilion roof has been replaced with steel
 - 2 new basketball standards have been installed (funded through Foundation bingo)
- A.W. Campbell Conservation Area:
 - 15 new picnic tables have been purchased & distributed
 - roads have been upgraded with gravel
 - a new 200 amp hydro panel has been installed at the pool washroom building
 - 4 new entrance gates have been installed & landscaping improvements have been completed at the main gate
 - 2 new portable washrooms have been purchased and assembled (funded through Foundation bingo)
 - over 50 spruce and hardwood trees have been planted
 - a new campground reservation and accounting system has been implemented
- Other Conservation Areas:
 - new property identification signs have been installed at Tony Stranak and Clark Wright Conservation Areas
 - Bonduelle Foods of Strathroy will be donating funds to develop an accessible trail loop, install 2 trail benches and construct a safety railing along the existing trail (Strathroy Conservation Area)
 - due to high lake levels it was not necessary to dredge the boat ramp and harbour area at the Highland Glen Conservation Area this year
 - accessible picnic tables have been installed at 6 Conservation Areas

- Marketing/Camping Statistics - our Conservation Areas have been marketed in the following publications or events in 2015:
 - Sarnia Lambton and Chatham-Kent Tourism Guide
 - camping ads have been placed on MyFm, Strathroy-Middlesex Chamber of Commerce, and Victoria Playhouse websites
 - Blue Water Tourism Guide (in partnership with other Conservation Authorities)
 - Middlesex Home & Leisure Show (Strathroy Gemini Complex – April 25th)
 - Sarnia Art Walk (Downtown Sarnia, June 6th and 7th)
 - Grafiks Marketing & Communication has completed our new conservation area visitor guides; approximately 5,000 guides have been produced
 - 418 seasonal campers have registered in our 3 campgrounds, up from 406 in 2014. 190 seasonal campers are registered at Warwick (185 in 2014), 120 at LC Henderson (118 in 2014) and 109 at A.W. Campbell (103 in 2014).

2015 Conservation Area Staff

Director of Lands	Kevan Baker
A.W. Campbell Conservation Area	Mike Tizzard (Superintendent) 847-5357 Don Skinner (Assistant Superintendent) Mary Ann Niewenhuizen (Maint. Foreman) Travis Pavey (Visitor Services) Emily Quinn (Lifeguard - summer) Alexandra Humphries (Lifeguard- summer) Ann Dymond (Visitor Services)
L.C. Henderson Conservation Area	Terry Barrie (Superintendent) 882-2280 Mark Bakelaar (Assistant Superintendent) Sherry Turner (Maint. Foreperson) Joe Breakey (Visitor Services) Bruce McDonald (Lifeguard – summer) Sally Butler (Gatehouse- summer)
Warwick Conservation Area:	Bill Turner (Superintendent) 849-6770 Glenn Baxter (Assistant Superintendent) Jesse VanderVaart (Visitor Services – seasonal) George Ruiger (Visitor Services – seasonal) Madison Hollingsworth (Gatehouse – summer) Allison Blunt (Gatehouse/ Events – summer) Aaron Rops (Maintenance – summer) Stephen Oulds (Maintenance – summer) Janessa O’Hara (lifeguard – summer) Delaney Willemse (lifeguard – summer)
Keith McLean Conservation Lands	Kelly Johnson & Matt Caron (Property Overseers)

- McKeough Upstream Lands:
 - Property 38 – a large wetland has been completed
 - Property 97 – soil erosion works have been completed
 - approximately 5.2 acres of grass buffer strips have been planted along drains and natural water courses throughout the McKeough Upstream Lands
 - Property 38 & 39 - two homes and 5 out buildings have been demolished; most of the grading and concrete removal has been completed

Lambton County Lands:

- Lambton County Heritage Forest:
 - staff regularly inspect and perform maintenance on the 8 kms of trails
 - Forestry staff have inventoried, marked and will oversee logging operations within one of the forestry compartments
- Marthaville:
 - staff regularly inspect and perform maintenance which includes trail and parking lot maintenance
 - Phragmites around the ponds to be managed with herbicide
- Bowens Creek:
 - Forestry staff to manage the existing 50,000 seedlings previously planted
 - new entrance gates have been installed on the access laneway
- Perch Creek:
 - Staff regularly inspect and perform maintenance
 - Existing trails will be cut by a local grass contractor

Foundation Lands:

- Harrison Woodlot:
 - a new property identification sign has been installed
- Keith McLean Conservation Lands:
 - a 50 x 65 ft gravel parking lot has been constructed
 - 2 access gates have been installed at the Rose Beach Line entrance
 - grass buffer strips have been planted along the water courses
 - a trail loop has been developed

BD-15-080

Nemcek - Wright

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the Conservation Lands Update, dated June 11, 2015 on Conservation Areas, McKeough Upstream lands and Lambton County properties.”

CARRIED

A request regarding placement of a food services truck on Authority owned property adjacent to the Dresden Rotary Memorial Gardens was considered.

- Chatham-Kent staff contacted the Authority to request permission to locate a food service vehicle on Authority owned property adjacent the Dresden Rotary Memorial Gardens
- staff requested a map identifying the location, but one had not been provided at the time of printing – additional information may be available at the meeting

- the proposal is to locate a non permanent structure on Authority property
- therefore, impacts to the property and risks to the operator are minimal

BD-15-081

Rupke - Miller

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated June 22, 2015, regarding placement of a food services truck on Authority owned property adjacent the Dresden Rotary Memorial Gardens and further that the request from Chatham-Kent be approved.”

CARRIED

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

- Precipitation and Streamflow Conditions
 - as with most watersheds in Southern Ontario, our watershed experienced extremely dry spring with only 65% of the normally expected precipitation regionally over the past three months. Conditions improved significantly at the end of May and into June
 - several storm events at the end of May and continuing into June resulted in the region receiving 40mm to 50mm or 50% of the total average precipitation for the month of June within the first 10 days of the month improving conditions slightly. Watershed conditions responded with higher flows at the end of May and into June.
 - as of this report, extensive rainfall over a short period has flooded some fields and drainage culverts however with the current seasonal flow conditions being close to normal, much of the watershed has responded with a moderate increase as we move into June but levels still remain close to anticipated seasonal levels
 - precipitation numbers for the last 3 months continue to be only 62.5% and 61% for the last 6 months. While numbers suggest improvement in May (below) and into June, the regional trend is expected to remain “statistically” low when compared with 6 and 12 month regional averages.
- Flood Threat
 - there are no current flood conditions in the St Clair region with flow levels remaining in the normal range however high flows associated with sudden storm events has impacted on drains and creeks. This impact may become reduced as crops develop in open fields and more seasonal precipitation levels are reached. Watercourses are expected to accommodate additional rain events as we move into the summer season. As always conditions will be monitored in response to any significant changes in rainfall patterns and advisories will be provided as conditions dictate.
- Weather Forecast
 - June – slightly below average temperatures with average precipitation
 - Summer – above normal temperatures and precipitation are expected into the summer
- Current Projects
 - several summer projects have been started within the department to enhance overall data collection and systems management including:
 - installation of a Ott Pluvio rain gauge at Warwick CA. This gauge provides greater detail during significant rain events
 - installation of a Hobo weather station at the McLean property as part of a MOECC regional nutrient management study
 - student summer works program to provide stream gauge maintenance including grounds keeping, painting and repairs.

- comprehensive rain gauge calibration program to improve accuracy during watershed rain events
- installation of additional FTS logging equipment including Petrolia and Wallaceburg as well as new Staff Gauges at bridge locations in the watershed to improve gauge calibration
- technical assistance to Upper and Lower Thames in installing automated satellite based groundwell stations as part of the Drought Response Program (SCRCA already has one location near Strathroy)
- moving toward implementation of an in-house version of the new WISKI data management system currently used by several other CA's as well as MNRF
- Great Lakes Levels (Canadian hydrometric Service – April 2015)
 - the monthly comparison for April 2015 (current available data) lake levels continued to improve significantly compared to April 2014 for Lake Huron with a level of 176.52m, an increase of 46cm making levels higher again compared to the previous reporting period than both the 10 year average as well as the overall average for the entire period of record. This is positive news moving into the summer. Lake St. Clair has also improved with levels 21cm higher over the same month last year and 22cm higher when compared to the 10 year average. It should be noted that Lake St. Clair is quite shallow and responds quickly to increased seasonal inflow from rivers as well as the higher lake levels in Lake Huron.

BD-15-082

Scholten - Wesley

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated June 9, 2015 on the current watershed conditions and Great Lakes water levels.”

CARRIED

A report on the Low Water Response was discussed.

- the role of SCRCA is to monitor, report and support the low water response committee.
- lack of rainfall for the months of April and May prompted the low water response committee to meet on May 21, 2015.
- the Low Water Response Team is made up of representatives of water users: SCRCA board, First Nations, farmers, golf courses, and gravel pits, MOE and MMAH.
- low water conditions are determined by the analysis of precipitation and flow data at select hydrometric stations. There are three levels
 - Level I: the first indication of a potential water supply problem, managed through water conservation
 - Level II: a potentially serious problem, managed through water conservation and restrictions on non-essential water use
 - Level III: water supply fails to meet demand, managed through water conservation, restrictions and regulation of water use
- the low water response committee confirmed that the SCRCA is in a Level 1.
- graph below indicates the precipitation for the month of April for Sarnia, Petrolia and Brigden.

BD-15-083**Bruinink - Marriott**

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated June 8, 2015 on the Low Water Response and the committee meeting held on May 21, 2015.”

CARRIED

A staff report on Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure Projects submitted for funding in 2015-2016.

- review of WEIC applications have been completed by a committee of provincial and Conservation Authority staff representatives. The following 4 projects were approved for 2015- 2016.

Structure	Project Name	Description of Work	Total Project Cost (\$)	Grant Requested (\$)
McKeough Floodway	McKeough Floodway Berm Repair	perform repair work along the floodway	\$200,000	\$100,000
McKeough Floodway	McKeough slope Stability investigation	study- instability is being observed along the McKeough Floodway. Failure scarps and tension cracks are noticed along the face of the slope	\$15,000	\$7,500
Arda Dykes	Hazard Tree Removal	remove trees, shrubs and debris that have the potential to cause slope stability issues	\$24,000	\$12,000
Wallaceburg Retaining wall	Wallaceburg Retaining wall inspection	inspection of retaining wall in Wallaceburg	\$25,000	\$12,500

- we continue to wrap up projects on a monthly basis. Status of 2014 – 2015 projects is outlined below:

Structure	Project Name	Status
McKeough Dam	McKD-Hazard Tree Removal	Completed
McKeough Dam	McKeough Floodway Berm repair	Completed
Cathcart Park	Cathcart Park shoreline Protection phase 4	Completed
McKeough Dam	McKeough Dam Drop structure repair	Ongoing
LAWSS	LAWSS shoreline repair	Completed

BD-15-084**Scholton - MacKinnon**

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated June 8, 2015 on the ongoing Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure projects across the watershed and further acknowledges the project updates on the previously funding projects and projects submitted for 2015-2016 funding.”

CARRIED

A staff report regarding the Lambton Area Water Supply Erosion Project was reviewed.

- repair work started on January 26, 2015
- project was completed in 50 working days as outlined in 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 has been repaired in this work
- construction work completed by April 2015
- restoration work completed in May 2015
- several concrete blocks were re-used, however, 120 new concrete blocks were installed
- shoreline work has received positive feedback from the community
- LAWSS/SCRCA has received a number of complaints about the safety railing

BD-15-085**Nemcek - Gordon**

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated June 8, 2015 on the Lambton Area Water Supply Erosion Project.”

CARRIED

A staff report regarding the Healthy Watersheds Program in Lambton Shores was reviewed.

- Outreach and Education
 - Hillside School Tree Planting – Mr. Vanderburgt’s Grade 4 class planted a beautiful native tulip tree in their school yard as a wrap up to a weeklong study on Earth Day (April 24, 15). The students were quite excited to get outside and dig a big hole for the 8 foot tall tree.
 - postcard reminder to farmers – It’s that time of year again! Nearly 340 postcards were mailed to landowners in Lambton Shores, reminding them of grants that SCRCA has available for stewardship projects. Funding for the postcards came from Environment Canada and Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change. Staff are currently setting up site visits to determine project feasibility.
- 2015 Annual Healthy Lake Huron Newsletter - The release of the 2015 Healthy Lake Huron newsletter is a great kickoff to the cottage season! Articles written by a number of organizations focus on work taking place to protect and improve water quality along Lake Huron’s southeast shore. The Lambton Shores article was the very first one on the front page – it highlighted all the efforts of volunteers and local organizations in helping restore the retired Forest Sewage Lagoons.
- Water Quality Monitoring - ongoing on a monthly and storm event basis to contribute to long-term data. We had a dry spring, but a large rain event the weekend of May 29 triggered the ISCO automatic sampler. Water samples were collected every two hours by the sample for 48 hours.

Eight of those 24 samples were analyzed at the MOE lab. This analysis will contribute to understanding how and when nutrients move during precipitation events.

- Crop Surveys – With funding support from OMAFRA, staff is conducting their annual crop survey of Lambton Shores. This information will provide long-term trends in cropping practices and rotations.
- 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.

BD-15-086

Wesley - Scholton

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated June 6, 2015 on the Healthy Watersheds Program in Lambton Shores, and endorses staff efforts to engage private landowners in Best Management Practices to improve the surface water quality.”

CARRIED

A staff report regarding the allocation of funding from the Great Lakes Sustainability Fund was explained.

- on June 5, the Honourable Leona Aglukkaq, Minister of the Environment announced funding to support environmental clean-up projects in the Great Lakes. The Government of Canada’s Great Lakes Sustainability Fund (GLSF) is contributing more than \$2.8 million towards over 30 new projects in Canadian Great Lakes Areas of Concern (AOC).
- one of the projects supported by GLSF is the development of a Fish and Wildlife Habitat Management Plan for the St. Clair River AOC by St. Clair Conservation in collaboration with Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (OMNRF), Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) and Rural Lambton Stewardship Network (RLSN). The Plan will provide a resource to facilitate habitat restoration and stewardship beyond AOC delisting.
- both aquatic and terrestrial habitat within the St. Clair River AOC are impacted by industrial, agricultural and residential development resulting in hardened shorelines and loss of wetlands resulting in the loss of important habitat for fish, waterfowl and other wildlife. As a result, the creation or restoration of habitat along with improved stewardship has been a major priority in the St. Clair River AOC. Since the river’s designation as an AOC, there has been substantial progress in habitat rehabilitation and creation within the AOC.

BD-15-087

Miller - Marriott

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated June 9, 2015 on allocation of funding from the Great Lakes Sustainability Fund (GLSF) towards SCRCA development of a Fish and Wildlife Habitat Management Plan for the St. Clair River AOC.”

CARRIED

A staff report on the Aquatic Inventory and Education Outreach Program was discussed.

- thanks to a grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation, aquatic inventories and education programs will continue for the second year around southern Lake Huron tributaries within the SCRCA jurisdiction. This project includes partners from Carolinian Canada Coalition, and Kettle & Stony Point First Nation.
- the education component will consist of SCRCA staff and the occasional guest such as Jenny Pearce of Sciensational Sssnakess visiting students in the area and teaching them about aquatic ecology and reptile species at risk. The 2015 program will be very similar to 2014 in that students will be guided to local creeks to explore aquatic habitat and creatures that inhabit these watersheds.
- fish community surveys take place in early June while mussel monitoring is scheduled to be completed around July and August. Fish are captured using a backpack electrofisher or seine net (see photo below) and are identified, weighed, measured, and released. Freshwater mussels are typically captured by hand or fishing nets where they are also identified, measured, and released.
- fish and mussel monitoring is an effective way to determine watershed health as each species has a specific tolerance to environmental change, pollution, temperature, etc. By identifying what species are present in a watershed, SCRCA staff can get an idea of watershed health and identify priority areas where habitat improvements can be made. These areas can also be surveyed in future years for the purpose of comparing data to see if watershed health is improving or decreasing.
- data collected from aquatic inventories will be displayed in Watershed Report Cards which are published every five years. These report cards are used as a summary of watershed conditions within the SCRCA jurisdiction. This data supplements other monitoring programs such as water quality and benthic monitoring.

BD-15-088

Rupke - Faas

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated June 8, 2015 on the Aquatic Inventory and Education Outreach Program in and around Lake Huron tributaries within the SCRCA jurisdiction will continue to provide current information on watershed health and encourage residents to get involved in stewardship activities.”

CARRIED

A staff report on the Reptiles at Risk program was reviewed.

- funding has been confirmed by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry for another year as part of the Species at Risk Stewardship Fund for the St. Clair Region Reptiles at Risk Program. This year will be another exciting one in that we have more monitoring efforts scheduled as well as volunteer opportunities and workshops.
- Reptiles at Risk Workshop
 - in April staff led a Reptiles at Risk workshop at the Sombra Museum in order to educate community members of the importance of Reptiles in the ecosystem as well as promote stewardship projects to enhance habitat in this key area. Approximately 30 people attended the event with great enthusiasm and some hesitations as we had Jenny Pearce from Sciensational Sssnakes present once again with her reptile entourage. Overall we had great interest and several local residents provided stories and sightings of the Eastern Foxsnake and other reptiles in the area and many showed interest in including habitat enhancements on their own properties.

- one local resident from Wilkesport was very excited about the workshop and showed some interest in not only adding habitat enhancements to their own property but also in volunteering with the SCRCA as part of our Reptiles at Risk program. It was decided that they will become a local steward of our Eastern Foxsnake Nesting box program and will help monitor our nesting boxes in the area. The goal is we will be able to improve our monitoring efforts as well as provide experience and opportunity to a very eager candidate who will hopefully in turn begin to educate others on the importance of Eastern Foxsnakes in the area.
- Snake Monitoring and Research
 - on June 9, 2015 staff assisted researchers from Queen’s University with Butler’s Gartersnake research in the SCRCA watershed. Their research focuses on the population distribution and genetics of the Butler’s gartersnake in comparison to the Eastern gartersnake. Staff assisted in locating and capturing approximately 12 Eastern gartersnakes, however Butler’s gartersnakes were not found on this day. The snakes were processed by taking measurements of length, width, head width, weight etc. The sex of the snakes was also determined, and blood samples were taken for further genetic analysis. The snakes were then released back to the particular locations they were originally found.
 - following the snake research with Queen’s University, staff completed a quick monitoring survey of nearby properties. Cover boards were examined for reptiles, with a focus on snakes. One Eastern Fox Snake was located underneath a cover board. The Eastern Fox Snake is of great interest and importance as it is a species at risk, with declining population abundances.

BD-15-089

Broad - Wright

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated June 10, 2015 on the Reptiles at Risk program, including an outreach workshop at the Sombra Museum, and reptile research on monitoring efforts on properties in the St. Clair Region.”

CARRIED

A staff report on spring 2015 tree planting was discussed.

- Seedling/Reforestation program
 - tree seedlings arrived on April 23rd as normal for spring delivery time.
 - SCRCA staff planted 54,000 trees this spring on 31 individual properties.
 - three tractor-mounted mechanical tree planters were used to plant most of the trees but several thousand trees had to be hand planted in the locations where tractors could not operate safely.
 - another 7,500 trees were ordered for 38 landowners to plant on their own.
 - tree planting was completed on May 31st.
 - most planting projects were conducted on private land this year due to the financial incentives we received through 7 different grant programs.

- more than \$136,000 in federal, provincial and local grant dollars was provided to landowners this year to subsidize the cost of trees, planting service and long term vegetation management.
- all sites were sprayed with a pre-emergent herbicide soon after planting
- another 300,000 trees were resprayed this spring on sites that were planted in 2012, 2013 and 2014.
- Large Stock/ Municipal tree program
 - approximately 800 large stock potted and bare root trees were purchased by landowners spring for windbreak and roadside tree planting
 - Brooke-Alvinston purchased the bulk of the trees for its municipal residents and provided a \$2.00/tree subsidy for landowners interested in purchasing and planting their own trees.
 - several hundred trees were planted by conservation staff on CA lands
 - price quotes were obtained from 5 separate tree nurseries and trees were purchased from 3 nurseries with the best prices and delivery costs.

BD-15-090

Bruzewicz - Faas

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated June 12, 2015 regarding spring 2015 tree planting on private, corporate and public lands.”

CARRIED

A staff report on the Larvicide program was reviewed.

- mosquito season is quickly approaching and the Lambton Public Health department has once again approved treatment of all catch basin in Sarnia-Lambton again this year.
- six summer staff from the watershed services department will be treating approximately 16,000 catch basins with a mosquito growth regulator called methoprene.
- four staff will be working out of the Strathroy office and 2 staff will be working out of the Darcy McKeough Dam.
- pre-treatment Larvae sampling is scheduled for June 18th.
- samples are then sent to Lambton Public Health. Mosquito activity will be used to determine when to start catch basin treatment. Approval from the Medical Officer of Health is required before treatments commence.
- applications for permits have been submitted to the London M.O.E.C.C. office and we are currently awaiting approval for 4 permits:
 1. Sarnia-Lambton - methoprene
 2. Sarnia-lambton - Bti
 3. Aamjiwnaang - methoprene
 4. Dupont Corunna - methoprene.
- Methoprene pellets will be applied to approximately 13,000 catch basins with 3 separate treatments spread out at 21 day intervals throughout the summer. Another 3,000 catch basins will receive a single methoprene briquette application for season long control in predetermined areas. The permit for the pesticide Bti is to be used on an “as needed” basis in open water upon request from Lambton Public Health.
- costs to the County will remain the same as last year.
- treatments of methoprene pellets usually start around the week of June 25th and end mid-August.

- public notification for pesticide application is scheduled for the Sarnia Observer for the week of June 22nd and further notifications will be posted in the Petrolia, Watford and Forest papers.
- efficacy testing is planned again this year to monitor how well pellets and briquettes are controlling mosquito populations. SCRCA staff will be conducting the sampling work.

BD-15-091

Scholten - Wright

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated June 12, 2015 regarding the Authority’s agreement with Lambton County to undertake the application of Larvicide to catch basins as part of Lambton County Community Health Services West Nile Virus Program.”

CARRIED

Regulations Summary Reports for April and May 2015 were reviewed.

BD-15-092

Bruinink - Marriott

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges and concurs with the Regulations Committee Reports on “Development, Interference with Wetlands & Alterations to Shorelines & Watercourses” Regulations (Ontario Regulation 171/06), dated April 30, 2015 and May 31, 2015.”

CARRIED

Planning Activity Summary Report for April and May 2015 was reviewed.

BD-15-093

Miller - Brewer

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority’s monthly Planning Activity Summary Reports for April and May 2015.”

CARRIED

A staff report regarding the April to June 2015 municipal drain activity report associated with the Drainage Act and Conservation Authorities Act Protocol (DART) was reviewed.

BD-15-094

Bruziewicz - Marriott

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report, dated June 9, 2015 on Drainage Act and Conservation Authority Act Protocol (DART) Municipal drain activities and drain Letters of Review for April to date June 2015.”

CARRIED

A staff report on Bill 73 – Smart Growth for our Communities Act, 2015 was discussed.

- CAs work in partnership with regional and local municipalities to provide input and technical support in the development and implementation of official plans, secondary plans, environmental studies/reports and special municipal by-laws. They provide valuable information and advice on flood control, stormwater management and the conservation of significant natural features and functions within their respective watersheds. CAs have been delegated responsibilities from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) to represent provincial interests regarding

natural hazards encompassed by Section 3.1 of the *Provincial Policy Statement, 2014* (PPS). Furthermore, CAs provide a crucial role in the planning and development approval process by assisting municipalities in fulfilling their responsibilities associated with natural heritage, water resources and natural hazard management.

- Proposed Amendments and CO comments - highlights on impacts to SCRCA
 - the amendment provides a more transparent process; there is potential to enhance CAs commenting role as decision makers must provide an explanation as to how comments were addressed and/or considered.
 - improved pre-consultation meeting process as recommended by CO would assist SCRCA.
 - use of dispute resolution techniques; a process has been set out. More cost effective for CAs.
- “(26.1) When a notice of appeal is filed under subsection (24), the council may use mediation, conciliation or other dispute resolution techniques to attempt to resolve the dispute”
There is an extension of time to resolve. This is positive. CO refers to this as the 60 day dispute process.
 - need for site plan control application circulation to SCRCA positive. Recommended by CO. Some municipalities circulate site plan applications to SCRCA, some do not. Can lead to inconsistency and issues with Regulation permitting.
 - minor variances – minor variances must conform with prescribed criteria and cannot apply for a minor variance for a 2 year period from which bylaw was amended,(unless council declares by resolution application for minor variance is permitted).
- overall, as CO notes, CAs are supportive of the main goals and objectives of the modifications in the Bill.

BD-15-095

Brewer - Rupke

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report, dated June 11, 2015, on Bill 73 - Smart Growth for our Communities Act, 2015 including Conservation Ontario’s comments on the amendments dated June 3, 2015.”

CARRIED

A staff report regarding the St. Clair River Area of Concern was discussed.

- Aamjiwnaang First Nation Earth Day Celebration – April 25, 2015
 - on April 25th, representatives from the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority (SCRCA) attended the Aamjiwnaang First Nation Earth Day Celebration. This annual event attracts many community members and local community groups. The day was very interactive with a number of activities occurring including a trash-to-treasure contest and a community clean-up. Staff set up a booth highlighting both the St. Clair River Remedial Action Plan (RAP) and major programs including water quality monitoring (with live benthic invertebrates!), shoreline softening and species at risk. Over 200 people attended the event with many community members and their families stopping by to ask questions, talk about environmental issues and learn more about the SCRCA.
- Statewide Public Advisory Council Meeting – May 4-5th, 2015
 - Donna Strang, RAP Coordinator attended the two day meeting of the Statewide Public Advisory Council (SPAC) in Port Huron, Michigan on May 4 and 5th. The SPAC consists

of public advisory council representatives from all 14 of Michigan's AOCs along with State and Federal agencies including the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality and the United States Environmental Protection Agency. The meeting provided an opportunity to learn about how AOCs and the re-designation of BUIs are addressed in the United States. Meeting highlights included discussions surrounding Michigan's delisting criteria and the Areas of Concern in Recovery designation along with a tour of American habitat projects along the St. Clair River.

- Upcoming Habitat Projects and Announcements:
 - a number of habitat restoration projects benefiting the St. Clair River AOC are under or will begin construction in the near future. In particular, RAP representation was requested at the following two announcements:
 1. Ducks Unlimited – June 10, 2015 - Ducks Unlimited will be announcing the restoration of nine wetlands covering a total of 375 hectares (900 acres) along the shores of Lake St. Clair. Three of these wetlands are located in the St. Clair River AOC boundaries and contribute to wetland goals associated with the “Loss of Fish and Wildlife Habitat” Beneficial Use Impairment (BUI).
 2. Enbridge – June 12, 2015 - Enbridge in partnership with Return the Landscape has committed \$150 000 over five-years to enhance their 445 hectare (1100 acre) Solar Farm located in Sarnia, Ontario. The project will naturalize the area with the installation of wetlands, woodlands and grasslands.
 - Status of Beneficial Use Impairments (BUIs): draft documents have been prepared for three BUIs in the St. Clair River AOC including the “Restrictions on Dredging Activities”, “Beach Closings” and “Restrictions on Drinking Water Consumption or Taste and Odour Problems”. All three are currently at different stages of review.

BD-15-096

Scholten - Nemcek

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report, dated June 8, 2015 on the St. Clair River Area of Concern.”

CARRIED

A staff report regarding the use of Authority owned property under a property management agreement was discussed.

- the Town of Petrolia is completing a project for reconstruction of Petrolia Line (from Fletcher St. to Bear Creek) including replacement of existing storm sewer, construction of a new outlet for the storm sewer and replacement of the existing watermain. The location of the new outlet for the storm sewer is within Bridgeview Park which is currently under lease agreement with the Town of Petrolia.
- works within Bridgeview Park consist of two storm sewer outfalls for outlet of road drainage from Petrolia Line.
- the proposed development should not negatively impact flood flows or elevations during a regional storm flood event or negatively impact Bear Creek or erosion processes. The proposed works also meet the terms of the lease agreement.

BD-15-097

Broad - Wesley

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges and concurs with the report dated June 18, 2015 “Development, Interference with Wetlands & Alterations to Shorelines & Watercourses” Regulations (Ontario Regulation 171/06) and the use of Authority owned property under a property management agreement, and further approves the proposed works to be constructed on Authority owned lands based on the conditions outlined in the report.”

CARRIED

Authority revenue and expenditures to April 30, 2015, were reviewed.

BD-15-098

Wright - Gordon

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the revenue and expenditure report to April 30, 2015, as it relates to the budget.”

CARRIED

April and May 2015 disbursements totaling \$1,428,668.96 were considered.

BD-15-099

Marriott - Miller

“That the Board of Directors approves the April and May 2015 disbursements as presented in the amount of \$1,428,668.96.”

CARRIED

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

BD-15-100

Nemcek - Faas

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the status report on the 2015 general levy receipts to June 11, 2015.”

CARRIED

Approved meeting minutes of the Health and Safety Committee were presented.

BD-15-101

MacKinnon - Case

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the March 18, 2015 meeting minutes of Health and Safety Committee.”

CARRIED

A staff report outlining the accessibility improvements to the office were reviewed.

- St. Clair Region Conservation Authority is committed to treating all people in a way that allows them to maintain their dignity and independence. We believe in integration and equal opportunity. We are committed to meeting the needs of people with disabilities in a timely manner, and will do so by preventing and removing barriers to accessibility and meeting accessibility requirements under the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA).
- as part of the Authority's Multi Year Plan to meet the requirements of AODA, the Authority has completed the following
 - website has been updated to the appropriate format (WCAG 2.0, Level A)
 - staff training is completed annually as a refresher and training has been incorporated in new staff training
 - Board members were trained at the December 2014 meeting. New members will need to be trained before the end of 2015.
- there were some delays in construction due to electrical, plumbing and supplier issues.
- the interior redesign is completed, we expect that exterior door and vestibule door to be installed by the first week in July and then all renovations will be complete.

BD-15-102

Scholten - Faas

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report, dated June 15, 2015 regarding the renovations to the Authority’s Administrative Offices.”

CARRIED

A staff report regarding changes to the Authority's Administrative Manual was considered.

- the Administration Policy Manual was last updated and approved by the Board in 2002. This policy contains all the Authority personnel and human resource policies as well as financial procedures and policy. Since 2002 there has been many updates in Labour Laws as well as many developments in policy with the changes in technology. We have researched and made several updates to bring this document to current labour market standards.

Director's Comments:

- budget amount for sick leave
- include step parents along with parents in Administration Manual wording.

BD-15-103

Rupke - Bruziewicz

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report, dated June 15, 2015 regarding changes to the Authority’s Administration Manual and further approves the update to the Manual dated June 2015 as amended, including authorization for staff to make changes to the manual resulting from legislative and regulatory changes as well as Board of Directors resolutions.”

CARRIED

A staff report regarding the disposal of nonessential and surplus equipment was reviewed.

- with the completion of the administrative office's accessibility renovation, several items have been identified as being for disposal
- the following items were identified as surplus by the administration department
- the items were offered to other Authority departments and have been declined
- the items have been reviewed by multiple staff and have been determined to have modest to no financial value
- due to the minimal value of the items, the staff have been polled to determine interest in any of the items
- items of interest will be offered to interested staff through auction or submitted sealed bids with the highest bids to be accepted for each item
- all remaining items will be donated at appropriate local agencies

BD-15-104

Bruzewicz - Miller

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated June 22, 2015, regarding the disposal of nonessential and surplus equipment and approves the disposal method as outlined.”

CARRIED

A staff report regarding communications was presented.

- Scholarships
 - the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority offers scholarships for graduating high school students living in or attending a high school within the region under jurisdiction of the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority. Students must be pursuing an education in a conservation/environmental related course of study (eg. forestry, biology, geography, agriculture, ecology etc.) in a recognized Canadian University or College.
 - the Conservation Scholarship program rewards these students based on their academic achievement and their demonstrated interest and involvement with the environment. The Scholarship is funded through trust funds with the St. Clair Region Conservation Foundation and was created through donations from individuals and organizations.
 - this year, we received 3 applications. The applications were reviewed by a committee established by the St. Clair Region Conservation Foundation which included Steve Arnold, Norm Giffen, Rick Battson and Brian McDougall. It was decided that all three candidates were deserving of a scholarship as listed below. The scholarships will be presented in June or early July.
 - A.W. Campbell Memorial Scholarship: two \$1,000 awards - Dylan Henry, St. Clair Secondary School and Kyle Cornelissen, North Lambton Secondary School
 - Mary Jo Arnold Conservation Scholarship and Tony Stranak Conservation Scholarship: one \$1,000 award - Katia Huszka, Ursuline College, Chatham (lives within the watershed)

- there is some concern about the lack of applicants. Currently we send out three copies of the scholarship information to schools so that we include the head of the science and geography departments as well as guidance. In addition, we ensure there is newspaper coverage and radio coverage to notify parents of the scholarship program. The information is posted on our website for easy access. A letter has been sent to each secondary school in the region seeking suggestions on how we might increase the number of applicants in the future.

BD-15-105

Wright - Marriott

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the communications report dated June 10, 2015, including scholarships, Aamjiwnnang Earth Day, Memorial Forest Dedications, Art Walk and Lake St. Clair Conference.”

CARRIED

A staff report on Conservation Education was discussed.

- Canoe Race - the Sydenham River Canoe Race was held on Sunday April 19th. Over 65 boats navigated down the river, paddled by enthusiastic paddlers. \$3,750.00 was raised for Conservation Education through pledges, registration fees and T. shirt sales. Sydenham Canoe Race T.shirts were available for purchase for the first time this year. Assorted sizes and 2 colour choices prompted quick sales.
- Spring Education Programs
 - Conservation Education continues to be a popular field trip focus for area schools. Programs are booked daily from early April through to the end of the school year. Teachers appreciate the hands on opportunities to connect classroom learning to the natural world.
 - the 3 year term for funding is drawing to a close for the Alternative Energy Program. It is hoped that Enbridge will continue to fund this very popular program. More than 1,000 students have participated so far in 2015.
- Special Events
 - Kid’s Fun Fest Sarnia, June 13, 2015: Upon request, SCRCA will participate in this day-long annual event. At our booth children will be invited to ‘mudpaint’. Using mud and natural paints, the children will explore their inner artist to create a take-home masterpiece! Parents will peruse our information table where literature on camping and other CA projects will be displayed.
- Community Partnership
 - LWI Young Naturalist Groups, Ongoing: Continue to run outdoor meetings for both the Young Naturalist Group (ages 7-11) and the Jr. Conservationist Group (ages 12 +). Our final meeting for the season will be held June 27th at The Pinery where we will participate in the Annual Butterfly Count. This year the Jr. Conservationists will paddle the Old Ausable cut, counting butterflies from our boats! The 2015-2016 season will begin in September.
 - Return the Landscape: One staff person continues to sit on the Return the Landscape Committee. This Group aims to re-naturalize Lambton County using plant rescues from development sites as well as from seed. RTL is currently involved in a number of large scale projects!

- **Sarnia-Lambton Arbour Week Committee:** Representatives from local groups organize and participate in annual Tree Planting projects. This year, Holy Trinity School grade 4 students assisted with planting trees at Coronation Park. Community volunteers helped plant trees at Autumn Breeze Park in the Rapids Pkwy subdivision. The tree planting projects were funded Union Gas/Spectrum Energy and Enbridge.

BD-15-106

Wright - Marriott

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the education staff report dated June 10, 2015, including the canoe race, spring education programs, special events, and community outreach.”

CARRIED

Under New Business, Andy Bruziewicz requested a copy of the Bright’s Grove study by Shoreplan Eng. and would like a report at the next meeting.

Thanks to staff and Friends of Warwick for the lunch.

BD-15-107

Faas - Wesley

“That the meeting be adjourned.”



Steve Arnold
Chair

Brian McDougall
General Manager